

# THE ILLUSTRATED SPORTING & DRAMATIC NEWS

No. 203.—VOL. VIII.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1877.

[REGISTERED FOR  
TRANSMISSION ABROAD.]

PRICE SIXPENCE.  
By Post 6½d.



MDLLE. LISA PERDI, OF HER MAJESTY'S OPERA.



RAILWAYS.

SOUTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS.—EXTENSION OF TIME OF RETURN TICKETS.  
ORDINARY RETURN TICKETS issued for distances over 100 miles between Stations on the South-Western system or the Somerset and Dorset line, are available for a month.

PORTSMOUTH and the ISLE OF WIGHT.  
Ordinary Return Tickets from Waterloo, Vauxhall, Kensington, Chelsea, and Clapham Junction, to the Isle of Wight, are available for eight days, by the four routes of this Company.  
ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION to the ISLE OF WIGHT.  
On Saturday, 22nd; Monday, 24th; and Wednesday, 26th December.  
The 5.0 p.m. Train from Waterloo will convey Passengers to Ryde, via Portsmouth Harbour, and to Stations on the Isle of Wight Railway.  
The 5.20 p.m. Train from Waterloo will convey passengers to Ryde via Stokes Bay.  
On Saturday, 22nd, Monday, 24th, and Wednesday, 26th December, the 5.0 p.m. Train from Waterloo will convey Passengers to Ryde, via Portsmouth Harbour, and to Stations on the Newport and Cowes Railway.  
On Saturday, 22nd and Monday, 24th December, the 5.20 p.m. Train from Waterloo will convey Passengers to Cowes via Southampton.

WEST OF ENGLAND, NORTH DEVON, PLYMOUTH, AND DEVONPORT, AND SOMERSET AND DORSET LINES.  
CHEAP THIRD CLASS RETURN TICKETS from or to London and the principal stations, including Devonport, Plymouth, Tavistock, Lifford (for Launceston), Exeter, North Devon, and the Somerset and Dorset Line Stations, via Templecombe and via Wimborne, and to all Stations, Yeolord to Devonport, Torrington, or Ilfracombe inclusive, will be issued by all Third-class Trains on Friday, 21st December, and subsequent days, available to return up to and inclusive of Saturday, 29th Dec. SPECIAL LATE TRAIN to the WEST OF ENGLAND, EXETER, TAVISTOCK, PLYMOUTH, DEVONPORT, AND NORTH DEVON LINE.  
On Saturday, 22nd, Monday, 24th December, a SPECIAL TRAIN, with first, second, and third-class passengers, will leave the Waterloo Station at 7.50 p.m. (Kensington at 7.15 p.m.), calling at the principal stations. Cheap Third-class Return Tickets will be issued by this train, available to return by any third-class ordinary train up to and inclusive of Saturday, 29th December.

BOURNEMOUTH, DORCHESTER, AND WEYMOUTH LINES.—CHEAP THIRD-CLASS RETURN TICKETS from or to London and the principal stations on the above lines will be issued by all third-class trains on Friday, 21st December, and subsequent days, available to return up to and inclusive of Saturday, 29th December.  
On CHRISTMAS-DAY the Service of Trains on all the Lines will be the same as on Sundays, with certain additional Trains.

PORTSMOUTH, SOUTHAMPTON, GOSPORT, and SALISBURY LINES.

On CHRISTMAS-DAY an ADDITIONAL TRAIN will leave the Waterloo Station at 8.5 a.m., calling at Vauxhall, Clapham Junction, and Wimbledon, and all stations below Surbiton inclusive, for Southampton (for Cowes), Portsmouth Town, Portsmouth Harbour (connecting with boat from Portsmouth Harbour to Ryde, and train from Ryde to stations on the Isle of Wight Railway), Gosport and Salisbury. First, second, and third class ordinary tickets will be issued by this train to and from all stations at which it calls.

For particulars of cheap fares, &c., see handbills, to be obtained at the Company's West-end office, 30, Regent-street, Piccadilly-circus (where tickets may also be had); the City Office, Exeter-building, Arthur-street West; South-Western Company's Stations. London offices and receiving houses, or by post from the Superintendent of the Line, Waterloo Station.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY.

ALL EXPRESS and ORDINARY RETURN TICKETS for distances above ten miles, issued on December 22nd, 23rd, and 24th, will be available for the Return Journey with eight days, including the day of issue. The Cheap Saturday to Monday Tickets, and Cheap Tickets to Dover, Folkestone, &c., issued on December 22nd, to be available to return up to and including December 27th. Tickets issued for distances of 100 miles and upwards are available for the Return Journey within one Month, including date of issue.

This arrangement also applies to Tickets issued between London and Beckenham Junction, but not to the Cheap Tickets issued between London and Gravesend.

Extra trains on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, December 22, 23, and 24, to nearly all parts, as may be required.

CHRISTMAS DAY, Extra Trains will run as required; but the Ordinary Service will be as on Sundays, with the exception of the Mail Trains from London to Dover at 4.40 a.m. and 8.25 p.m.; and from Dover to London at 1.55 and 4.15 a.m. and 3.45 p.m., which will run as on weekdays.

BANK HOLIDAY, 26th December, a Late Train will run from Charing-cross at Midnight, to Croydon, Red Hill, Reigate, and Stations to Dorking, including the Caterham Branch. (1, 2, 3 Class.)

Also from Charing-cross to Strood and Maidstone at about Midnight, calling at London-bridge, Woolwich, Belvedere, Erith, Dartford, Greenhithe, Northfleet, Higham, Cuxton, Snodland and Aylesford. (1, 2, 3 Class.)

For further particulars see bills to be had on application at any of the Stations. JOHN SHAW, Manager and Secretary.

GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

In addition to the Ordinary Sunday Trains, SPECIAL TRAINS, First, Second, and Third Class, calling at the Intermediate Stations, will run as under:—

ON CHRISTMAS DAY, 25th DECEMBER, 1877.  
From Bishop's Stortford at 9.15 a.m. to Dunmow; from Cambridge at 10.20 a.m. to Haverhill, Melford, Bury, Wisbech, and Lynn; from Ely at 10.55 a.m. to Sutton, Wymondham, Dereham, Fakenham, Wells, and Norwich (Thorpe); and from Lynn at 11.55 a.m. to Hunstanton, Docking, Burnham, Swaffham &c. These trains will be in connection with the 8.0 a.m. Train from Liverpool Street.

From Ipswich at 11.15 a.m. to Framlingham, Aldeburgh, Yarmouth (South Town), Lowestoft, &c., in connection with the 7.18 a.m. Train from Liverpool Street.

From Sudbury at 11.55 a.m. to Bury, Colchester at 10.10 a.m. to Walton-on-the-Naze, Bentley at 10.45 a.m. to Hadleigh, and Tivetshall at 12.45 p.m. to Harleston, Bungay, and Beccles, in connection with the 7.18 a.m. Train from Liverpool Street.

S. SWARBRICK, General Manager.

NORTH LONDON RAILWAY.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS, 1877.

Return tickets issued on Saturday, the 22nd instant, and intervening days, will be available to return, up to, and including, Thursday, the 27th inst.

On Christmas Day the trains will run as on Sundays.

BOXING DAY.

TRAINS EVERY FIFTEEN MINUTES to and from Chalk Farm, for PRIMROSE-HILL and the ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.

To and from Highbury and Islington for the AGRICULTURAL HALL. And to and from Victoria Park, and HAMPTSTEAD HEATH, and WILLESDEN JUNCTION.

Every half-hour to and from KEW BRIDGE for KEW GARDENS.

Every hour to and from RICHMOND, with a frequent Train Service to and from Teddington, for Bushy Park and Hampton Court.

Every half-hour to and from Kensington (Addison-road) and South Kensington, with a frequent Train Service in connection with the CRYSTAL PALACE.

Frequent Trains to Finsbury Park, ALEXANDRA PALACE STATION, Wood-green, Barnet, High Barnet, and Enfield.

Broad-street Station, December, 1877.

BOMBAY.—ANCHOR LINE.—Direct

route to India. Fortnightly sailings.—First-class steamers, fitted up expressly for the trade. Qualified surgeons and stewards carried.

From Glasgow. From Liverpool.  
TYRIAN ..... Saturday, Dec. 29 ..... (Direct).  
EUROPA ..... Saturday, Dec. 29 ..... Saturday, Jan. 25.  
TUSCANY ..... Saturday, Jan. 12 ..... Saturday, Jan. 19.  
ITALIA ..... Saturday, Jan. 26 ..... Saturday, Feb. 2.

First-class, 50 guineas. Sail punctually as advertised. Apply for berths or handbooks to Henderson Brothers, Union-street, Glasgow, and 77, Water-street, Liverpool; J. W. Jones, Chapel-walk, Manchester; Grindlay and Co., 55, Parliament-street, S.W.; and Henderson Brothers, 19, Leadenhall-street, E.C.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

On FRIDAY, December 21st, and following days, CHEAP THIRD-CLASS RETURN TICKETS will be issued by certain Trains from PADDINGTON, Victoria, Battersea, Chelsea, West Brompton, Kensington (Addison-road), Uxbridge-road, and Westbourne-park, to BARNSTAPLE, Ilfracombe, EXETER, Torquay, PLYMOUTH, Weymouth, Yeovil, Wells, Highbridge, Bath, BRISTOL, Taunton, Falmouth, &c., also to stations in the Yeovil and Weymouth districts, and (with a few exceptions) to stations west of Bristol, to PENZANCE inclusive, and *vice versa*, available to return up to and including Saturday, December 29th. These Tickets can be obtained at the Stations, and at the Company's Receiving Offices, 245, Holborn; 39, Charing-cross; 5, Arthur's reet, London-bridge; 89, Queen Victoria-street; 43 and 44, Crutched-friars; 4, Cheapside; and 351, Oxford-street.

On SATURDAY and MONDAY, December 22nd and 24th, the 5 p.m. FAST TRAIN from PADDINGTON to PLYMOUTH will be CONTINUED to FALMOUTH and PENZANCE, calling at all stations below Plymouth except Burngulf.

On the same days extra carriages will be attached to the 9 p.m. Limited Mail Train from Paddington, and First and Second-class passengers can obtain tickets for Gloucester, Cheltenham, Bristol, and stations beyond, for these trains, on and after Friday, December 21st.

Also, on the same days a SPECIAL FAST TRAIN (1st, 2nd, 3rd class) will leave PADDINGTON at 10 p.m. for Oxford, EXETER and PLYMOUTH, calling at Reading, Didcot, Swindon, Bath, Bristol, and Bridgwater, Taunton, Dawlish, Teignmouth, Newton, Totnes, Kings-bridge-road. The cheap third-class return tickets to Exeter, Plymouth, &c., will be available by these trains.

With a few exceptions the Trains on Christmas-day will run as on Sundays. For further particulars see special bills.

Padding on Terminus. J. GRIERSON, General Manager.

LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

THE TICKET OFFICES at EUSTON, Broad-street, Kensington, and Willesden Junction will be OPEN throughout the day on SATURDAY, Dec. 22, and MONDAY, Dec. 24, so that passengers wishing to obtain tickets for any destinations on the London and North-Western Railway can do so at any time of the day prior to the starting of the train.

Tickets can also be obtained at Gaze's Tourist Office, 142, Strand, W.C. On Christmas Day the 5.15 a.m. Newspaper Express Train from London (Euston Station) will run to Northampton, Birmingham, Shrewsbury, Warrington, Liverpool, and Manchester.

An additional train will leave Euston at 10.5 a.m. for Tring, calling at all intermediate stations.

For further particulars see bills and notices.

G. FINDLAY.

Chief Traffic Manager's Office, Euston Station, London, Dec., 1877.

STREATHAM STEEPLECHASES.

BOXING DAY, DECEMBER 26th.

SPECIAL TRAINS (1st, 2nd, and 3rd Class) to Streatham Common Station, close to the Course. From London Bridge 11.0 a.m. and 12.5 p.m., calling at New Cross, Forest Hill, Sydenham, Penge, Anerley, and Norwood Junction, and from Victoria 12.5 p.m., calling at Clapham Junction; Returning after the Races.

(By order) J. P. KNIGHT, General Manager.

THE NEW ZEALAND SHIPPING COMPANY (Limited).

Head Office, Christchurch, New Zealand.—Intending passengers to the Colony are invited to inspect the fine clipper ships of this line, lying in the South West India Dock, London, which have been fitted with every convenience for the comfort and safety of passengers. The fastest passage from the colony has been made by the Company's fine iron clipper OTAKI, viz., 68 days from Port Chalmers to the Downs.

For full particulars apply at the Company's Offices, 84, Bishopsgate-street, Within.

THEATRES.

THEATRE ROYAL, DRURY LANE.—

Boxing Night, December 26, will be produced the Grand Christmas Comic Pantomime, THE WHITE CAT, by E. L. Blanchard, scenery by W. Beverley, in which the celebrated Vokes Family will make their re-appearance in London. Double Harlequinade. Morning Performance, December 27. Box-office open from 10 till 5 daily.

THEATRE ROYAL COVENT GARDEN.—

On BOXING NIGHT, and till further notice, PUSS IN BOOTS. Mdlle. Cavallazzi and Ballet of 300. Prices and Day Performances as usual. Box office open from 10 to 5 by Mr. E. Hall. No fees.

PRINCESS'S THEATRE.—Miss HEATH as

Jane Shore.—In consequence of the enormous success that has attended the revival of W. G. Wills's Drama, JANE SHORE, it will be repeated EVERY EVENING for a few weeks longer, with the following exceptional cast: Miss Heath, Messrs. C. Warner, W. Rignold, Howard Russell, &c., Mrs. Alfred Mellon, Mrs. R. Power, Misses Illington, Barry, Harvey, &c. Preceded at seven by OUT TO NURSE. Mr. Harry Jackson and Miss Fannie Leslie. Great Snow Scene (winter by night).

NOTICE.—SPECIAL MORNING PERFORMANCE of JANE SHORE on BOXING-DAY. Children half-price (gallery and amphitheatre excepted). Commencing at two o'clock. Carriages may be ordered at 4.30. Due notice will be given of the production of ELFINELLA.

ROYAL ADELPHI THEATRE.—

Sole Proprietor, B. Webster. Manager, F. B. Chatterton. Every Evening at 7, THE DEAL BOATMAN, at 8.15 FORMOSA. Messrs. S. Emery, L. Lablache, H. Russell, Edward George, J. Johnstone, D. Cox, and H. Sinclair, &c. Mesdames Leighton, Billington, Hudspeth, Alma Murray, Clara Jucks, Stenbridge, E. Phillips, Kate Varre, &c. Prices 6d. to £4 4s. Box office open from 10 till 5 daily.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager,

Mrs. Bateman.—Mrs. Bateman begs to announce the re-opening for December 26th. BOXING DAY, when there will be TWO PERFORMANCES of the LYONS MAIL, at 2.30 and 8.0; with Mr. Henry Irving in his great dual characters, Lesurques and Dubosc. His first appearance in London since July. Box-office open from 10 to 5.

TURN OF THE TIDE, by F. C. BURNAND.

EVERY EVENING at 8. Preceded at 7, by A ROUGH DIAMOND. The most powerful company in London.—Box-office Hours 11 to 5. No Booking Fees. Prices from 1s. to £3 3s.—ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.

CRITERION THEATRE.—Lessee and

Manager, Mr. ALEX. HENDERSON.  
26TH NIGHT OF PINK DOMINOS.  
Charles Wyndham and Company.

Every Evening, at 7.30, the serio-comic drama, in two acts, by John Oxenford, Esq., entitled THE PORTER'S KNOT, Samson Burr, Mr. John Clarke. At 8.45, THE PINK DOMINOS. Messrs. Charles Wyndham, J. Clarke, Standing, Ashley, A. Harris. Mesdames Fanny Josephs, M. Davis, Eastlake, Rose Saker, E. Bruce.—Acting Manager, Mr. H. J. Hitchens

FOLLY THEATRE.

Lessee and Manager, Mr. Alex. Henderson.  
Special Christmas Novelty, Saturday, 22nd December, and every Evening until further notice.

Every Evening, at 7.30, a Comedy, in Two Acts, by H. Merivale, Esq., entitled PEACOCK'S HOLIDAY.

Supported by Mr. W. J. Hill and a powerful Company. At 8.45 (first time), A NIGHT OF TERROR.

A Musical Madness, in Three Fyttes.

"Flat Burglary as ever was committed." From the French, by Charles Wyndham and Arthur Matthison.

Musical Director, Mr. Edward Solomon.  
SPECIAL MORNING PERFORMANCES, BOXING DAY, WEDNESDAY, December 26th, SATURDAY, 29th December, and NEW YEAR'S DAY, TUESDAY, 1st January, 1878.

Acting Manager, Mr. J. C. Scanlan.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.—ZOOLOGICAL

Gardens, Regent's Park. Admission Sixpence, Every day from Dec. 24th to Jan. 4th inclusive.

EVANS'S

CONCERT AND SUPPER ROOMS, COVENT GARDEN.

The CAFE part of these celebrated SUPPER ROOMS is Now Open for the reception of Ladies. The body of the Hall being still reserved exclusively for Gentlemen.

EVANS'S WORLD-RENOVED CHOIR OF BOYS, Every Evening, specially trained by, and under the direction of Mr. F. JONGHMANS.

Admission, One Shilling. Ladies, Two Shillings.

OPEN AT EIGHT. FIRST CHORUS AT 8.30.

SUPPERS AFTER THE THEATRES.

Proprietor ... .. J. B. AMOR.

VAUDEVILLE THEATRE.—947th

Night of OUR BOYS. Every Evening, at 7.30, A WHIRLIGIG; at 8, the most successful comedy, OUR BOYS, written by H. J. Byron (947th and following nights). Concluding with A FEARFUL FOG. Supported by Messrs. Farren, Thorne, Garthorne, Bernard, Lestocq, Austin and James. Mesdames Hollingshead, Bishop, Walters, Richards, Larkin, &c. Free list entirely suspended. N.B.—Morning Performances of OUR BOYS (by desire), on Saturday, Jan. 5th and 12th.

ROYAL STRAND THEATRE.—Production

of a Grand Christmas Burlesque, on BOXING NIGHT, and Every Evening at 7.30 the New Comedy, FAMILY TIES. Messrs. Wigan, Marius, Cox, Grahame, &c. Mesdames Venne, Foster, Holme. After which (first time), THE LATEST EDITION OF THE RED ROVER. Messrs. Marius, Cox, Mitchell, Carter, &c. Mesdames Sanger, Venne, De Grey, &c., &c.

ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—

Lessee and Manager, Mr. HARE.

Every Evening, punctually at 8.15, will be performed an original Comedy of modern life, in Five Acts, entitled THE HOUSE OF DARNLEY, written by Lord Lytton (Author of "Lady of Lyons," "Richelieu," "Money," &c.). Characters by Miss Ellen Terry, Miss Amy Roselle, Miss B. Henri, Mr. Charles Kelly, Mr. Titheradge, Mr. A. Bishop, Mr. R. Cathcart, Mr. Denison, and Mr. Hare. The scenery has been painted by Messrs. Gordon and Harford. Box-office hours, 11 to 5.—Acting-Manager, Mr. Huy.

THEATRE ROYAL, HAYMARKET.—

Lessee and Manager, Mr. Buckstone.—At 7.30 the farce BY THE SEA. At 8.15, an original farcical Comedy by W. S. Gilbert, entitled ENGAGED, produced under the immediate direction of the Author. Mesdames Marion Terry, Julia Stewart, Lucy Buckstone, E. Thorne, J. Roselle, M. Harriss, Morelli, Harrison, etc. Messrs. Howe, F. Dewar, Kyrle, Crouch, Weathers, Rivers, and George Honey (specially engaged). Doors open at 7. Box-office 10 to 5.  
Morning Performance on Boxing Day and on Saturday next at 2.30.

OPERA COMIQUE.—THE SORCERER.—

Every Evening, at 8.45, is entirely new and original modern comic Opera, by Messrs. W. S. GILBERT and ARTHUR LULLIVAN. Mmes. Alice May, Giulia Warwick, H. Everard, and B. Brandam; Messrs. G. Bentham, R. Temple, Rutland, Barrington, F. Clitosa, and G. Grossmith, jun. At 8, DORA'S DREAM. Open 7.30.

OPERA COMIQUE.—Fourth and Fifth Morn-

ING PERFORMANCES OF THE SORCERER, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22,

AND BOXING-DAY, DECEMBER 26,

at 3 o'clock.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.

FATHERLAND.

A Grand Historical Drama, adapted from Sardou's famous Play, PATRIE.

Will be produced on THURSDAY, JANUARY 3rd.

In consequence of the Rehearsals, and the preparations requisite to produce this Piece in a fitting manner, the Theatre will be closed on Monday, December 24th, until Thursday, January 3rd.—Seats can now be secured.

GLOBE THEATRE.—Under the Management

of Mr. RIGHTON. Mr. J. L. Toole in ARTFUL CARDS, at 8; followed by TRYING A MAGISTRATE and BIRTHPLACE OF PODGERS, preceded by 47 CRYPTO. Morning performances every SATURDAY. THIS DAY at 2.30, MAMMON. Saturday morning next Mr. Toole will appear in the CRICKET ON THE HEARTH and THE SPELLING BEE.

DUKE'S THEATRE, HOLBORN.—Under

the Management of Miss VIOLA DACRE.—EVERY EVENING, Lord Byron's grand Historical Play of SARDANAPALUS, as represented for upwards of 2,000 nights in all the principal cities and towns of the United Kingdom. Universally pronounced by the Press and public one of the grandest productions of the time. Splendid scenery. Magnificent costumes. Startling effects. Grand Ballet and Chorus. Seats can now be secured in advance. Popular prices.—Pit (1,000 seats), 1s; Gallery (800 seats), 6d.; Boxes, 2s; Dress Circle, 3s; Stalls, 5s. The Play is produced under the immediate direction of Mr. Thomas W. Charles. Doors open at 7; commence at 7.30.—Acting Manager, Mr. E. Russell.

ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—BOXING-DAY at

2, NIGHT, and following Evenings at 8 o'clock, will be presented an entirely new Fairy Musical and Pantomimic Extravaganza, in three acts, and fourteen tableaux, entitled "WILDFIRE," by H. B. Farnie and R. Reece, supported by the toll wing talented artists—Misses Pattie Laverne, Lennox Grey, Emma Chambers, A. Newton, L. Robson, &c.; Messrs. Harry Paulton, F. Hall, J. H. Ryley, C. Power, and Henry Nordblom. THREE GRAND BALLETS. Danseuses, Mdlles. Pertoldi, Gillert, Mons. A. Josset and the whole of the Corps de Ballet.—Musical Director, Mons. G. Jacobi.

ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—BOXING DAY

at 2, NIGHT, and following Evenings, "WILDFIRE," by H. B. Farnie and R. Reece, Pantomimic Extravaganza in Three Acts. Act I, SABOT DIVERTISSEMENT and DANSE RUSTIQUE. Madlles. Sismondi, Rosa, Melville, and Richards; Mons. A. Josset and the Corps de Ballet. Act II, Grand Ballet de Gardes Francais. Madlles. Pertoldi and Gillert; Mons. A. Josset. DRESDEN CHINA MINUET by the Children of the Corps de Ballet and Juvenile Fifers and Drummers. Act III, GRAND BALLET OF JEWELS, supported by Mdlles. Pertoldi, Gillert, Sismondi, Rosa, Melville, Richards, and the whole of the Corps de Ballet. GRAND TRANSFORMATION. CASCADES OF REAL WATER. Harlequinade by the ROWELLA FAMILY. Clown, the Great Little Rowella; Pantaloon, Mr. E. Burgess; Harlequin, Adolphe Rowella; Columbine, Miss Emily Rowella. Sprites by the ROSINE and DUCROW FAMILIES. Doors open at 7.10; commence with a Farce at 7.20. Price from 6d. Manager, Mr. Charles Morton.

NEW ROYALTY.—Lessee and Manageress

Miss Kate Santley.—57th Night of LA MARJOLAINE. The new song, "That's the way I do it," and "She lost her way," sung by Miss Kate Santley, and encored nightly. Every Evening at 8.15, Lecocq's celebrated comic opera, LA MARJOLAINE. Miss Kate Santley. Supported by Miss Rose Cullen, &c.; Messrs. W. H. Fisher, Mervin, and Lionel Brough. Box office open from 11 till 5 daily.

MESSRS. JOHN SANGER AND SON'S

GRAND CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR CARNIVAL.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL GREAT HALL, ISLINGTON.

Commencing BOXING DAY, Dec. 26, 1877, at Two o'clock. The most Powerful Attraction ever submitted to the Public. Four Complete Entertainments in One.

Flat Racing, Hurdle Racing, Steeple Chasing, Pony Racing, Roman Racing, Roman Chariot Racing, Camel, Dromedary, and Elephant Racing. Three complete Circus Companies. Mons. Cannovora and 10 Elephants; the wonders from the East, Great Display of Fireworks, and the Grand Military Spectacle entitled THE BOMBARDMENT AND FALL OF PLEVNA, in which Two Thousand Men and Horses, Camels, Oxen, Goats, &c., will take part. Seating Accommodation for Twenty Thousand People. Two Performances daily. Every Afternoon at Two; every Evening at Seven. Reserved Seats (select), 3s.; First-class, 2s. Second-class, 1s.; and the Great Galleries, 6d.



SANGER'S GRAND NATIONAL AMPHITHEATRE, WESTMINSTER-BRIDGE-ROAD.

This commodious and elegant Theatre, the only establishment of its kind in the United Kingdom where the Circus, Hippodrome, and Hippodramatic Performances are given, once the home and pride of the great Astley and Ducrow, and the ambition of every large Equestrian Director of Europe and America, duly Licensed by the Lord Chamberlain, having been gorgeously re-decorated and now possessing all the modern improvements of the most recently erected theatres in England, both as regards the comfort of the audience and stage requirements, will re-open on Boxing Day, December 26th, 1877, at Two o'clock, with a carefully-selected Burlesque, *Pantomime and Equestrian Company*. Production on a scale of splendour of the Grand Christmas Double Pantomime, written by W. M. Akhurst, Esq., entitled *WHITTINGTON AND HIS WONDERFUL CAT; OR, HARLEQUIN JOHNNY GILPIN AND HIS RIDE TO EDMONTON*. The Pantomime of 1877-8 will notwithstanding the liberality of the proprietors in their previous productions) by far eclipse any attempt that has been made in this Elegant Theatre. The twelve magnificent Scenes executed by those eminent Artists, Messrs. Dayes and Caney. Properties by Mr. John Rogers and assistants; the gorgeous Costumes by Mrs. Bovey and assistants; the brilliant music composed by Gio. G. High-class Vocalists, Comedians, Dancers, Double Harlequinade, and the Triple Circus Company. Two Performances Daily, every Afternoon at 2 and Evening at 7. Box office open from 10 till 4. Prices:—Private Boxes from £1 11s. 6d. to £5 5s.; Balcony Stalls, 4s.; Orchestra Stalls, 2s. 6d.; Boxes and Pit Stalls, 2s.; Amphitheatre, 1s. 6d.; Pit, 1s.; Gallery, 6d. Acting Managers, Messrs. Sidney Cooper and Charles E. Stuart. Stage Manager, Mr. W. Holland.

NEW GRECIAN THEATRE, City-road.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Conquest.

NOTICE.—MORNING PERFORMANCE of the Pantomime on BOXING DAY, and Thursday at one o'clock; and every Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday. Private Boxes and Stalls for both morning and evening performances, can be booked at the Theatre and all libraries; month in advance. On Christmas Eve, December 24th, Boxing Night, December 26th; and every evening at 7 o'clock, the Grand New Pantomime by Messrs. Geo. Conquest and Henry Spry; entitled, *HARLEQUIN ROLEY POLEY; OR, EARTH, AIR, FIRE, WATER, AND THE CHARMED UMBRELLA*. Characters by Messrs. Geo. Conquest, Herbert Campbell, H. Nicholls, Geo. Conquest, junr., &c. Misses Maud Stafford, F. Sedgley, M. A. Victor, Denny, Laura and Ada Conquest, and the Sisters Spiller. New original music, selected, composed, and arranged by Mr. Oscar H. Barratt. Daring Phantom Fight by Messrs. Geo. Conquest and Son.

BRITANNIA THEATRE, Hoxton.—Boxing-Day at 12, in the Evening at 6.45, and Every Evening, The New Christmas Pantomime called *ROMINAGROBIS; THE TAIL OF A CAT*. Mrs. S. Lane. Miss Pollie Randall, Mr. Fred Foster. Messrs. Bigwood Lewis, Rhoyds, Hyde. Mdles. Summers, Rayner, Brewer. Mrs. Newham. Ballet and Harlequinade by the Lupino Troupe. Concluding (Boxing mor ing excited) with *MAN'S TALISMAN*. Messrs. Reynolds, Newbound, Drayton, Reeve, Towers, Wray. Mdles. Adams, Reillair, Pettifer.

MR. AND MRS. GERMAN REED'S ENTERTAINMENT. ONCE IN A CENTURY, by Gilbert A. Beckett. After which a Sketch, by Mr. Corney Grain, entitled "A MUSICAL ALMANAC." To conclude with A Fairy Vision called *OUR NEW DOLL'S HOUSE*. Admission 1s., 2s., 3s., 5s.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHRISTMAS WEEK.—Twice Wednesday (Boxing-Day), at 3 and 8. Thursday, Dec. 27, at 3. Twice on Friday, Dec. 28, at 3 and 8; and Saturday, Dec. 29, at 3. During the Holidays, Every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday Afternoon, and Every Evening except Thursday and Saturday at 8. ST. GEORGE'S HALL, LAMHAM PLACE.

CRYSTAL PALACE. CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES.

GRAND COMIC PANTOMIME, entitled, *THE SLEEPING BEAUTY*, By AUGUSTUS HARRIS and W. R. OSMAN.

Under the direction of Mr. Charles Wyndham. Scenery by Julian Hicks. Transformation Scene by Charles Brew. Dresses by Auguste and Co. Mise en Scene—Mr. Augustus Harris.

THE AMERICAN TROUPE (specially engaged). Characters by Messrs. F. Wyatt, Elliott, Fothergill, Johnstone, Ridley, Coote, Budd, Ricketts, Jurden, Storm, and McIntyre. Mesdames Edith Bruce, B. Iann, Barnett, Wilmore, Engel, Wills, De Kella, Trevellyn, Chapman, Maxwell, Patisson, Webb, Hamilton, Lucetti, Ellis, G. Smith, L. Smith, &c., &c.

Ballet and Chorus. An Army of Two Hundred Children. BAND OF THE SCOTS GUARDS. Conductor—Mr. J. P. CLARKE.

WIELAND'S VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT. Comprising Performances by

The Dugros Troupe of Acrobats, Sextillian the Equilibrist, Leonce the Musical Clown, the Brothers Griffith, the Wonderful Wirewalker Wainratta, Madame Felix and her extraordinary Poodles, &c.

BOXING DAY, December 26; Thursday, 27; Saturday, 29; Monday, 31; and January 1 (New Year's Day).

EVENING CONCERTS OF POPULAR BALLAD AND CHORAL MUSIC.

following engagements have already been made:—Vocalists. Miss Mary Davies, Madame Alice Barth, Miss Helen D'Alton, Miss Frances Brooke, Madame de Valence, Miss Matilda Scott, Miss Annie Butterworth, Madame Mudie Bolingbroke; Mr. J. H. Pearson, Mr. H. Guy, Mr. R. Hilton, Mr. W. Shakespeare, Mr. J. L. Wadmore. Solo Instrumentalists: Violin, Mr. T. Watson; Oboe, Mr. Dubrucq; Basson, Mr. Wooton; Flute, Mr. Alfred Wells; Clarinet, Mr. G. A. Clinton; Cornet, Mr. Wilmore; Euphonium, Mr. A. J. Phasey. Pianoforte, Mr. Fountain Meen. South London Choral Association (Conductor, Mr. L. C. Venables). Mr. W. McNaught's Choir.

GONZA, NESTOR, and RUDOLF, in their wonderful Aerial Performance.

Mrs. Horseley's Panorama of Scenes in the Great American Civil War. Experiments during the day with Professor Bell's Telephone.

DR. LYNN'S LIVING MARIONETTES.

Christmas Bazaar and Fancy Fair, Fine Arts Courts and Collections, Chinese Collections, Technological Museum, Skating Rink, Marine Aquarium Wurtemberg Collection of Animals, Park and Gardens, &c.

MONDAY TO FRIDAY, ONE SHILLING. SATURDAYS, HALF-A-CROWN; or by Season Ticket.

ROYAL AQUARIUM. GRAND CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES.

The Royal Aquarium for variety, novelty, and excellence of its entertainments will this year surpass all other rival establishments.

Doors will open at 11, during Christmas week.

11 till 1 o'clock and throughout the day, the Laplanders, Men and Women Reindeer, Sledges, Dogs, etc. The Chimpanzee, Pongar, the Sacred Monkey, the Abyssinian Snake Charmer, the Royal Punch and Judy, Cosmographic Views, the Performing Fleas. The Aquarium, finest in the world, the New Seal Tank, George Cruikshank's Collections, New Sketches of the Illustrated News.

1.0. First Variety Entertainment.

2.0. The Grand Christmas Pantomime, A FROG HE WOULD A WOOLING GO, in the Theatre. The Pantomime of the season.

3.0. Second Special Variety Entertainment in Great Hall.

5.30. Zazel, the marvellous.

7.30. Second performance of the Gorgeous Pantomime in Theatre.

8.0. Third Grand Variety Entertainment in the Hall.

10.30. Zazel's Second Performance.

The Mathew's Minstrels, original C. C. C. of St. James's Hall, specially engaged, afternoon and evening; Ethardo, the Spiral Ascensionist, Beneditti, the Sword Swallower, Vol Becque's pupils, Inca, from Peru, Leon, the Contortionist, the Great Japanese troupe, the Dare Brothers, Stiltion. Perform afternoon and evening. The most extraordinary combination of talent ever appearing before the public on one day.

Admission, One Shilling.

MARAVILLA COCOA FOR BREAKFAST.

"It may justly be called the Perfection of Prepared Cocoa."—British Medical Press.

"Entire solubility, a delicate aroma, and a rare concentration of the purest elements of nutrition, distinguish the MARAVILLA COCOA above all others."—Globe.

Sold in tin-lined packets only by Grocers. TAYLOR BROTHERS, London, Sole Proprietors.

THE WANDERERS' CLUB, Pall Mall.

This Club having now reached 1,378 Members, there remain only 200 VACANCIES. Annual Subscription: Town Members, 8 Guineas; Country Members, 4 Guineas; Members Abroad, 2 Guineas. Present Entrance Fee, 10 Guineas. Apply to the Secretary.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES. ON BOXING-DAY, WEDNESDAY NEXT,

December 26th, the World-famed MOORE AND BURGESS MINSTRELS' THIRTEENTH ANNUAL SERIES OF HOLIDAY PERFORMANCES will commence in the ST. JAMES'S GRAND HALL, Regent-street and Piccadilly, which will be specially fitted up for these performances. THE HOLIDAY PROGRAMME will, as usual,

BE THE RICHEST AND MOST ATTRACTIVE Amidst the entire round of Metropolitan Amusements.

FORTY ARTISTS OF KNOWN EMINENCE will take part in the Holiday Entertainment.

FIVE THOUSAND SEATS IN THE MOST MAGNIFICENT AND LUXURIOUS HALL IN EUROPE.

PERFORMANCES WILL BE GIVEN EVERY DAY AT THREE,

EVERY NIGHT AT EIGHT, UNTIL SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 1878.

Prices of admission:—Great Area and Gallery (2,000 places), One Shilling; Balcony, 2s.; Sofa Stalls, 3s.; Fauteuils, 5s. Children under 12 half-price to Stalls and Balcony only. No fees. No charge for programmes.

Tickets and places for any day or evening up to January 12 may be secured at Austin's Ticket Office, St. James's Hall, without extra charge.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAYS. 1877-78. THE MOORE AND BURGESS MINSTRELS' THIRTEENTH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S FESTIVAL

Performances WILL COMMENCE ON BOXING-DAY, Wednesday, December 26th,

when a NEW AND MOST DELIGHTFUL ENTERTAINMENT will be presented,

in which the entire strength of this great company will be engaged. PERFORMANCES WILL BE GIVEN EVERY DAY AT THREE,

and EVERY NIGHT AT EIGHT, from Boxing-day, December 26th, to Saturday, January 12, both days inclusive.

FIVE THOUSAND SEATS. Doors open every day at Two. Every night at Seven.

Places can be booked for any performance of the series without extra charge, at Austin's Ticket office, St. James's Hall.

THE CANTERBURY.—Licensed to F. VILLIERS.

This entertainment consists of a Panorama of the seat of war from Constantinople to the scenes of the latest interest, with a Diorama of Plevna and the victory of Osman Pasha in September last. The views and costumes, from sketches taken by Mr. F. Villiers, the special correspondent and artist, who visited every Town and City given in the Panorama, and was an eye witness of the Celebrated Battle, when the Turkish forces gained so brilliant a success. The whole of the sketches and particulars are presented to the public through the kind permission of the proprietors of the "Graphic."

THE BALLET IN THE "HAREM" supported by Miss Phyllis Broughton, Mdle. Victor, and Corps de Ballet. The Children have been instructed in the Turkish and Russian manoeuvres by Col. Sergeant White, of the Grenadier Guards.—Scenery painted by Mr. W. Hann.

THE CANTERBURY.—Licensed to F. VILLIERS.

The Brothers Kulper, Acrobats; Young and Dean, Negro Delineators; Fred Albert, Comedian; Miss Agnes Milnes, Marie Rodan, Charles Butler, Carlo D'Anglis, Neale Campbell, Fred Coyne, Comedian; Romah, The Flying Trapezeist; Carlo Benedetti, The Sword Swallower; Selection from "Martha," PLEVNA, Panorama and Diorama; F. Wilson, Comic; Wainratta, Invisible Wire Walker; Colmar's Acrobats, Comic Ballet.—Stage Manager, Mr. J. Tressider.—Musical Director, Mr. Frewin.

EXHIBITION OF CABINET PICTURES in OIL, DUDLEY GALLERY, Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly.—THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION IS OPEN DAILY from 10 till 5. Admittance 1s. Catalogue 6d. R. F. McNAIR, Secretary.

IMPORTANT TO FAMILIES REQUIRING MOURNING. MESSRS. JAY, in reminding their clientele

that they are in direct communication with the manufacturers of the goods they supply, and thereby save them all intermediate profits, beg also to announce that they now SELL whole PIECES of GOODS at WHOLESALE PRICES. Among other useful hard-wearing fabrics, at moderate charges, are:

Victoria Cord, 1s. per yard, 27in. wide.

Ramthea, 1s. 3d. per yard, 39in. wide.

All Wool Serge, from 14d. per yard.

All Wool French Poplin, 3d. per yard.

French Merinos, from 2s. per yard, 40in. wide.

Circassian Cloth, from 18d. per yard, 39in. wide.

Windsor Cloth (both sides alike); 1 guinea the dress of twelve yards.

Good Serviceable Cape, from 2s. per yard.

JAY'S, Regent-street.

THE CONNAUGHT. £2 18s. 6d. complete.

"Messrs. Jay brought especially to our notice a new winter costume of their own design, which they have called 'The Connaught.' It consists of an Ulster and skirt made of black serge cloth. The ulster is of a most graceful shape and cut; no trimming, except rows of machine stitching and a few black horn buttons, mars the simplicity of this ladylike costume, which is well suited for travelling or ordinary walking wear."

The Queen Newspaper, Nov. 24.

JAY'S, The London General Mourning Warehouse, Regent-street, W.

MR. STREETER, 18, NEW BOND STREET, LONDON, W., GOLDSMITH.

18-Carat Gold LOCKETS .. from £1 to £20

18-Carat Gold BRACELETS .. " £3 " £50

18-Carat Gold CHAINS .. " £4 5s. " £30

Any pattern, for Ladies or Gentlemen, at per oz. £4 5s.

18-Carat Gold NECKLACES .. from £2 to £30

The Jewellery Business now carried on at 18, NEW BOND STREET, W., is the third oldest established amongst the Court Jewellers of England. It was first established in Bevis Marks, in the City of London, during the XVIIth Century, was afterwards removed and carried on as a West-End Jeweller's in Hanover Square, and from thence to 18, NEW BOND STREET, W.

Warrants of Appointment were given during the reigns of GEORGE III., GEORGE IV., WILLIAM IV., and QUEEN VICTORIA, as Jewellers, Goldsmiths and Watchmakers.

"GOLD."

By the same Author. The Second Edition (fifth thousand) now ready. Paper Covers, 2s.; Cloth, 3s.; Chapman & Hall, London.

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THE ILLUSTRATED Sporting and Dramatic News.

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1877.

"THE GOSSIPS' BOWL."

Our Christmas Number, "The Gossips' Bowl," is out of print.

We have to confess to a demand for copies enormously in excess of our capacity to meet it. Large as the impression was, it fell short by many thousands of the number required. Although we recognise the compliment to the merit of the annual, which is conveyed in this remarkable fact, we feel that an apology is due to those who have been disappointed in their efforts to obtain copies. Owing to a failure, which we cannot sufficiently regret, in the machinery of production, we find that it will be impossible to further supply the coloured supplement—"Chips of the Old Block," and if, as we have too good reason to suspect, our second edition of the Christmas number (minus, Mr. Lucas's picture) fail to reach many quarters where it is asked for, we must be content to express our sorrow at such failure. We have achieved a great success, but we regard it as

A defeated joy,

With one auspicious and one drooping eye.

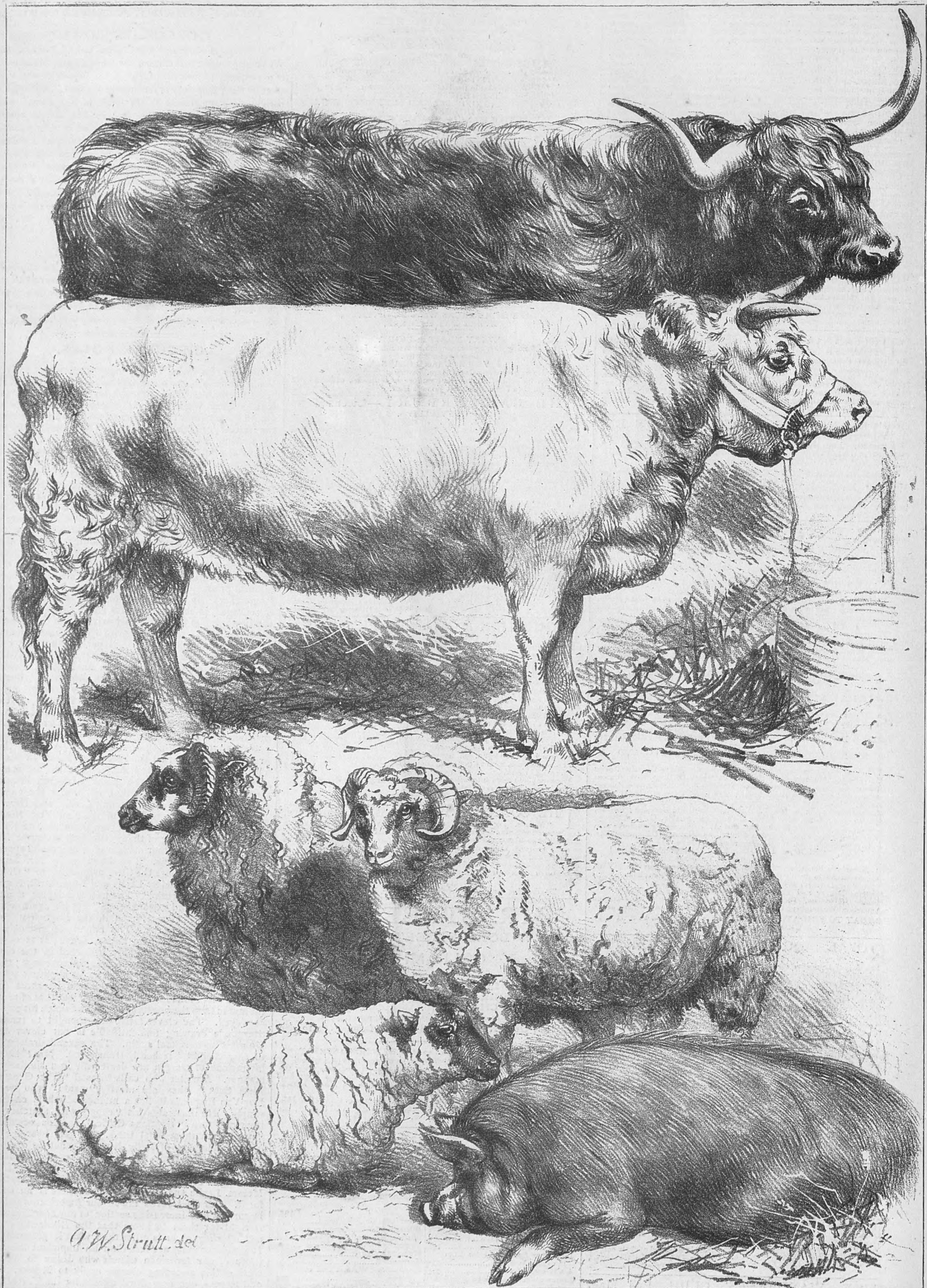
It would have been so much more gratifying to have satisfied all demands. We may add, in conclusion, that, in order to avoid further disappointment, an early application, either directly to the publishing office, or the local agents, for such remaining copies of the second edition (without the coloured plate) is desirable.

CIRCULAR NOTES.

WE have no desire to say many more words to Henry Leslie, or Scipio, his bland brother, or their editor, Herr von Engelhardt. They are thieves of the most barefaced type. Every week of their journalistic existence they obtain money from the readers of their piratic print under the falsest of false pretences. Their enterprise, upon which they have been cordially complimented by the editors of contemporary journals, is the enterprise of an area sneak. They conduct and edit on the principles which actuate the burglarious conductor of your family plate from your own safe into the gaping receptacle of his unholy swag; their editing is the editing of a fence who presides over the melting-pot. We have known and bewailed ever since the establishment of the ILLUSTRATED SPORTING AND DRAMATIC NEWS the absence of a copyright convention between this country and the United States. But we had come to think that there was growing up amongst "our brethren" in America a sense of decency from which we were likely in time to derive substantial profit. We were wrong. Thieving—they call it "smartness" in America—flourishes, and is as warmly encouraged, in the land of stars and stripes as it was in the beginning of the newspaper existence of that great and noble nation. To steal and reprint without acknowledgment a story by an English author is yet accounted a correct and commendable action on the other side of the Atlantic. To filch and adapt a picture from an English illustrated journal, is held by those who run American illustrated journals the first of editorial duties, the strongest proof of editorial sagacity. "Convey the wise it call." But when a paper which professes to be a native production is week after week palmed upon American readers as an American production, we think it right to tell our many American readers that it is nothing of the kind. To speak in the broad, we may say that the best illustrations in the New York Illustrated Dramatic and Sporting News are ours; the worst, the produce of the poverty-stricken brains and clumsy hands of the crew that sail under the congenial commandship of Mr. Frank Leslie and Herr Von Engelhardt. Four numbers of the New York Illustrated Dramatic and Sporting News are before us, and this is what we find in three of them (the first we have already noticed), amongst other evidences of successful appropriation from our columns. Two drawings by Mr. Sturgess. The first of these bore the title, originally, of "Over the Five Bars." Adapted by Leslie and Engelhardt, it appears as "Taking the Brush!" The native adapter must look up "Nimrod" and "Stonehenge" ere he again ventures on instructing his countrymen in the English method of hunting reynard the fox. The hound he has delineated wears a collar; it is of no known breed; it is obviously mad; its companions, roughly indicated in the dim distance, are prick-eared curs of doubtful parentage; the lady who is leaping the gate is in the act of alighting upon the fox—and such a fox! One of the arts imparted to little Oliver Twist by his Israelitish Mentor was that of removing the marks from the pocket-handkerchief which his pupils had conveyed. The clever artist who thought to render Mr. Sturgess's drawing unidentifiable is not clever enough. He must go to school again. The second drawing, "Up to Any Weight," is bodily transferred. Mr. Friston's illustrations of Oxygen are dealt with in a similarly frank manner. A writer who calls himself "The Gent in the Aisle Seat" (they are mostly "gents" who write for Her Von Engelhardt) has a method which is charmingly simple. He illustrates his "copy" with sketches stolen from our own "Captious Critic," and, as occasion requires, gives them local titles. He gets over the unimportant difficulty of Nelly Bromley's not being in New York with the Lydia Thompson Company by labelling Our Captious Critic's sketch of her "The Fair Lydia!" We might add to these proofs of the "enterprise" of Messrs. Leslie and Engelhardt, but there is no necessity for it. Our final words are to our American readers, an important and increasing section of our constituency. It is right for them to know that the Illustrated Dramatic and Sporting News is other than what it pretends to be. It is neither more nor less than an impudent fraud. Let those of our American friends who desire to prove the truth of this sweeping charge apply to Messrs. Wilmer and Rogers, our accredited agents for the United States, and they will learn that we have rather under than overstated the case.

(Continued on page 334.)





PRIZE WINNERS AT THE SMITHFIELD CLUB CATTLE SHOW.



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## TURFIANA.

MR. TAYLOR SHARPE, of Baumber Park, did not do a bad "deal" when he disposed of Suffolk to the foreigners for a snug little sum, for his stock, though remarkably good-looking and evenly made, achieved only a qualified success in the sphere they were intended to adorn. In replacing Suffolk with Cœruleus, we fancy that a move in the right direction has been made, as the brother to Blue Gown will suit most of his new owner's fine roomy mares to a nicety, while his blood is unexceptionable; and breeders are content to put down a cool hundred for the services of Blue Gown, at Cobham. Cœruleus is built very much after the same fashion as his brother, and his muscular development is something marvellous; in fact, he is, so to speak, one of the "biggest little" horses we have ever clapped eyes on, and his performances, when analysed, will be found to be of no mean order, though not of such high class as Blue Gown's, who proved himself a stayer by his Cup victory at Ascot. The great success which has attended the efforts of the Beadman family, should call attention to the claims of Cœruleus, and for big, lengthy mares of the Young Melbourne type we can pitch upon no more likely mate. Merry Sunshine is still at Baumber, and we hear good accounts of his half-bred stock, thereby justifying his selection by the judges of the Cleveland show as the best of a class likely to improve the breed of horses in that district. The terms of both horses have been made remarkably "easy," and they will doubtless ably sustain Mr. Taylor Sharpe's reputation as a breeder.

Galopin, we note, has returned to his old quarters at Messrs. Barron's, Newmarket, though it was generally understood he would remain at Easton Lodge for another season. We have not yet heard what sort of luck he has had with his mares last season, but his beginnings in stud life were not very promising, and his figure is abnormally high for a stallion which could show such a poor foal list as the result of a capital chance at starting.

At Easton Lodge we find Le Marechal filling one of the vacant stallion boxes, and when at Shepherd's Bush we thought him a nice, corky, fine-actioned horse, but just a trifle flat-sided and lacking in substance. In fact he looks more like getting high-stepping hackneys than such useful nags as Christopher Sly and others, which have brought his name to the front. He is valuable, now that Gladiateur is dead, for his Monarque parentage, while on his dam's side we have not to trace back far in order to arrive at Sir Hercules, the progenitor of one of our most famous lines of blood. So far Le Marechal is the only horse advertised to stand at Lord Rosslyn's paddocks, where it is probable there will be another vacancy owing to the removal of Miner, whose name has not yet appeared in the Calendar. So important and growing a stud will surely not be without some "head" of note in 1878; but the difficulty of course in securing high class sires now that the undemand so far exceeds the supply.

The distance from Easton Lodge to Brick House, Dunmow, is but short, and though Captain Ray's mares have recently found new owners, it appears to be the intention of those interested in Clanronald to let him stand there for the season, along with Guy Dayrell, a former Lincoln Handicap winner, and a fairly good looking horse. Clanronald claims to have beaten Springfield "fair and square" in the Criterion Stakes, but he is rather too high on the leg to please an exacting connoisseur, and his propelling power is far superior to the machinery in front, which will account for his fondness for a track like the Cambridgeshire finish. Guy Dayrell is also one of the "leggy" tribe, as might be expected from a fusion of the Wild Dayrell and King Tom strains, but he was a good actioned horse, and might do his country some service if a chance were given him. Nothing can be better than the accommodation for mares at Brick House, and we are glad to find that the old place is still to hold its own among the stud farms of England, to which it had so recently become an acquisition.

Much consternation has been excited among the little men of the Turf at the fact of Captain Macbell's resolution anent hurdle-racing having become law; and indignation meetings have been held, and "round robins" plentifully signed, with the view of getting rid of the obnoxious rule. At Kingsbury it was the subject of much animadversion, and a petition was got up, which we earnestly trust the Grand National Committee may see fit to order to "lie upon the table," seeing that the rule was not passed without due deliberation, and with the object of doing away with those wretched short cuts in hurdle-racing which benefit neither man nor horse, and are mere travesties of sport, fitter for the circus than the racecourse, and reproaches to the name of sport. What on earth can it matter should a score of the petty meetings now got up purely with a view to benefit a mere pothouse fraternity go to the wall? Would racing languish should a few paltry gatherings be disestablished, and a few wretched crows find their occupation gone? It is all very well to talk about the injustice of cutting the ground away from under the feet of "little men," but does the welfare of the Turf demand a recognition of pettifoggers, who are mostly responsible for bringing it into contempt? We don't say that there may not exist among the smaller fry honest and upright sportsmen, but it is notorious that those who have sunk to a low ebb as trainers and jockeys are not the sort of people to be encouraged and abetted. If millstones were laid about the necks of the wretched crows which figure at those Little Pedlingtons, and the whole lot were cast into the sea, we should be well rid of such nuisances; and the trainers and jockeys of questionable antecedents might find occupation elsewhere. Let the G.N.H. committee abide firmly by their recent action, which will commend itself to all real well-wishers of sport, however great may be the storm of indignation it raises among the "galled jades" who may well wince under so sweeping an enactment.

Cecrops, one of Mr. Gee's old favourites at Dewhurst, is, we hear, on the sale list, and we had quite lost sight of him since the dispersion of his late owner's stud. Both in colour and shape there is no handsomer horse at the English Stud, though he is a trifle hollow backed, a *la* Friponnier, but not nearly so loosely made a horse as the latter. His action is very easy and grand, like most horses moulded after the fashion we have described, and latterly he had some of Mr. Gee's best mares. His breeding is orthodox enough, and he probably inherited his tremendous turn of speed from his maternal grandsire, Longbow, one of the fastest horses that ever swept across the breezy expanse of Langton Wold in its palmy days. Cecrops's credentials were of a similar nature, but his former eccentric owner did him but little justice when taken out of training, and Mr. Gee finally came to the rescue. One of the first of his get, Dunmow, is a singularly handsome horse, and a good mover, and though breeders have fought shy of Cecrops because he was a mere T.Y.C. horse, they might learn a lesson from our French neighbours, who are not afraid to dip into such sources of blood, as evidenced by their patronage of Plutus, Cymbal, and others now doing good business across the channel. Besides, are we not filling Prince Charlie's list over here at fifty guineas, while there is an "ugly rush" on Springfield, whose staying powers we must take on trust? Talking of Cymbal, reminds us that Mr. Waring's new purchase arrived in England last week; and it is rumoured that among Count Lagrange's coming two-year-olds there will be found some living advertisements of his powers of a sire which have already been exemplified in France,

where his youngsters did really well last season. Cymbal was one of the French Government prize winners last year, and as he will be at the service of the public for the very moderate fee of a "pony," he will not lack patronage, and his new owner has determined to give him a chance with half a dozen or so mares from his collection at Beenharn.

Sires departed this life, or gone abroad, we need waste no time in noticing, and for the sake of convenience we shall classify those we deem worthy of a passing notice under the following heads, giving covering fees in each case.

1. Progressing.			2. Holding their own.		
Gs.	Winners	£	Gs.	Winners	£
100 Cremorne	(2)	1210	30 Julius	(9)	2845
40 Cardinal York	(4)	2035	25 Orest	(12)	2340
25 John Davis	(5)	2738	30 Cathedral	(8)	2676
25 Kingcraft	(6)	1045	30 Brown Bread	(8)	3485
10 Motagnard	(2)	1040			
20 Pagauini	(7)	1700			

Cremorne had but three foals registered to him in 1875, so he must be included among the "rising" lot; so must Cardinal York, though his yearlings have not realized high prices as yet; and we cannot look upon John Davis, considering his chance, as worthy of a further trial. Kingcraft we hold to be one of the most promising as well as moderately-priced stallions in the list, and he has not done amiss his first season with 6 winners out of a dozen foals; and Montard and Paganini have both done well, the latter especially, while both are nice shapely horses with fair racing credentials. Julius, Orest, Cathedral, Brown Bread, are much "as you were," and sustain their character for begetting some of the "useful" sort, with an occasional brilliant one thrown in, and most of them may be said to have "had their chances." So, most emphatically have certain of those included in our third category, of which it is only fair to say that Nestors of the Stud, such as Saunterer and Vedette, have had their day, and use their time to good advantage, while Musket is still on his trial, and must not be judged for a season or two. The rest speak for themselves, but although at present "under a cloud," there is no saying when the silver lining may show itself, which we trust may speedily come to pass, if only to illustrate the familiar proverb that "every dog has his day."

In common with many other subscribers to, and persons interested in the Fordham testimonial, which was set on foot "years ago," and of which nothing has since been heard, we are surprised to come across, in the most casual manner, a statement in the *Sportsman* of Wednesday last, to the effect that "the testimonial was indifferently disbursed (*sic*) through getting into unfortunate hands." All this is very vague and indefinite, and hints of a state of things, eminently undesirable, which should be disclosed at once by those in possession of the secret. Subscribers are entitled to know the amount of money raised on behalf of Fordham, and to be more acquainted with the character of the unfortunate disbursements made of the fund. What became of this large sum, and who were the responsible "disbursers" of the same, and did they "disburse" it for their own special benefit, or "how otherwise," as the lawyers say? It looks very like a successful attempt having been made to hush matters up, in which case more's the pity, say we, and we feel that many will be found to endorse our sentiments. In the future, when subscriptions for a similar object are intended to be made, it will be better for some responsible public official, such as Messrs. Weatherby, to hold the money; as your amateur treasurer is too often hazy in his notions of business matters, to put the mildest construction upon the matter. We hope the subject may now be thoroughly ventilated, and the names of the delinquents published, be they dead or alive, for we have heard no whisper of their identity at present. For the intended recipient of the testimonial the case is a hard one indeed, as most of his savings had been swallowed up in an unfortunate speculation, and the money would have been of real use to him. All his well-wishers must regret so disastrous a *dénouement*, and it is curious that public attention should not have been before directed to the delay which has occurred in squaring up accounts.

SKYLARK.

## MUSIC.

## HER MAJESTY'S OPERA.

THE winter season of Her Majesty's Opera Company concluded on Tuesday last, when a miscellaneous performance, consisting of selections from various operas, was given for the benefit of Mr. Mapleson. On the previous night, Flotow's *Marta* was produced, with Mdlle. Marimon in the title character, Madame Trebelli as Nancy, Signor Urio as Lionel, Signor Zoboli as Sir Tristan, and Signor Del Puente as Plunkett. In the lighter scenes of the opera Mdlle. Marimon made her customary success, and she sang the air "Qui sola, vergin rosa" with excellent taste and expression. In those passages which demanded sympathetic power and genuine pathos she was, as usual, cold and ineffective. She is a highly cultivated artist, but she seldom, if ever, succeeds in awaking the sympathies of her auditors. Madame Trebelli on this occasion made her first and only appearance during the season. The part of Nancy suits her perfectly, and she was both vocally and dramatically successful. Signor Urio was not an attractive-looking Lionel, nor was his acting distinguished by grace of movement, or sentimental power. In the first duet, "Solo, profugo," he was hardly audible, owing to the stage fright to which he is subject; but in the well known air, "M'appari, tulla amor," he obtained a success. Signor Zoboli was comic, so far as his lower limbs were concerned, but when he was not dancing he was dull. Signor Del Puente was a manly representative of Plunkett, and sang in excellent style throughout the opera. The Sheriff was, as usual, impersonated by an artist, who sang out of tune. Why? It may be unreasonable to expect that good actors shall be found for minor parts, but correct intonation ought at least to be secured. It is a common mistake to suppose that for the minor parts in opera "anybody will do." The great Lablache, on more than one occasion, showed how much might be made of minor parts, and it is certain, that where these are efficiently filled, the general success of an operatic performance is sensibly enhanced. The choruses were, in some instances, carelessly sung, and the voices of the young ladies in the opening chorus of the Maids of Honour sounded very much like the voices of old ladies. Some allowance must, however, be made for the fatigues of a two months' season, during which the choristers have had to sing six times, and occasionally seven times, per week. Of the selections performed on Tuesday last, for Mr. Mapleson's benefit, the only one which calls for notice is the "Shadow scene" from *Dinorah*, sung by Mdlle. Marimon. This obtained the chief success of the evening, but we are bound to say that it has often been better sung at our two opera houses, and elsewhere. Mdlle. Marimon's intonation was invariably correct, and her realisation was often brilliant; but her singing was purely mechanical, and the dramatic side of the character was lost sight of, except in the perfunctory dancing. The plaintive episode, in which the lovely, demented maiden expresses her despair, produced no effect,

and the singer failed to stir the sympathies of the audience, apparently because her own were unmoved. She also failed to give proper dramatic colouring to those passages which she had to sing, and the shadowy visitant to repeat. When repeated, these passages should be sung sotto voce, as if echoes of the original sounds. In this manner a dramatic colloquy is realised, and the approving "Très bien!" which Dinorah addresses to her pupil is naturally introduced; but when the original phrase and the imitation are delivered in precisely the same style, the repetition is meaningless. It is of course difficult to sing high notes sotto voce, but the reading which we advocate is that adopted by the original Dinorah, Madame Marie Cabel, by Miss Louisa Pyne, and other vocalists; and so competent an artist as Mdlle. Marimon ought to follow traditions derived from Meyerbeer himself.

During the season no less than 16 operas have been given, and the composers whose works have been selected were Mozart (4), Verdi (3), Meyerbeer (2), Rossini, Weber, Donizetti, Bellini, Gounod, Flotow, and Marchetti. Verdi's four-act tragic opera (which of his operas, it may be asked, is not tragic?), *La Forza del Destino*, was promised, but was postponed until next season. If postponed until the commencement of next century, few amateurs who know the work will feel much regret. It is the gloomiest of Verdi's compositions, and is more provocative of nightmares than of enjoyment. The novelty of the season, Signor Marchetti's *Ruy Blas*, was produced according to promise. It has, for some years past, been popular on the Continent, and deserved a hearing. Although not a work of great merit, it is superior to the majority of Italian operas produced within the last ten years, and so closely follows the story of Victor Hugo's splendid tragedy that it will probably, on that account, bear occasional repetition. The repertory of the season has almost entirely consisted of great standard works, which have been executed in a manner worthy the reputation of H.M. Opera. The band has been less numerous than during the regular season, but its efforts have not been on that account less enjoyable; and among the many merits of the excellent conductor, Signor Li Calsi, may be specially mentioned his suppression of the inordinate noise which used to be indulged in by the band under the direction of his predecessor.

Mr. Mapleson deserves hearty thanks from the musical public for his recent endeavour to popularise Italian opera. It is gratifying to know that he has reaped a considerable pecuniary reward, and that the figures which represent the profit he has made on the season correspond almost exactly to the amount which he has usually lost on every "regular" season in London, with "star" artists and high prices of admission. He has created for himself a new and ample constituency and if—confiding, in their loyalty—he should boldly resolve to stand no longer in the ancient ways, and to conduct all his future seasons on the plan of that which has just terminated, he may rely on increased popularity, with the acceptable accompaniment of increased profit.

## MR. J. L. HATTON'S "HEZEKIAH."

ON Saturday last a large number of the musical profession, as well as the general public, were attracted to the Crystal Palace, by the announcement that an M.S. oratorio, by Mr. J. L. Hatton, would be performed for the first time in public. On this work, entitled *Hezekiah*, the veteran composer was known to have been occupied for a long period, and his high reputation encouraged favourable anticipations regarding the latest effort of his muse. Those anticipations were realised to a considerable extent. Flowing and graceful, if not strikingly original, melody abounded in the vocal music; the orchestration was clever; the counterpoint worthy of the composer; and the oratorio was accepted as a well-written work, in which a sterling musician had sought with no mean success to follow the footsteps of the immortal Handel. Mr. Hatton has not been led away by the theories of the Wagnerian school. He has in his symmetrical melodies consulted the love of "tune," which is inherent in mankind, and will outlast the "endless melody" which consists of disjointed phrases without recurrence. Few composers surpass him in knowledge of harmony, but he contents himself with simple modulations, and refrains from the restless changes of key which are the resource of composers in search of ideas. In short he has given us a specimen of masterly, honest workmanship, which does credit to his ability as a musician, although it may not add to the enviable distinction which he has gained in other branches of his art. As his oratorio is likely to be published, we postpone an analysis. Meanwhile, it may be pointed out that the composer has not been fortunate in his choice of a subject, and has found few opportunities for creating musical effect in treating the history of Hezekiah. Without the smallest desire to disparage that estimable monarch, it may be admitted that his personal history is uninteresting. The careers of Joshua, Samson, Judas Maccabeus, and other scriptural personages illustrated by Handel, are suggestive of dramatic treatment; of strong contrasts; of variety of colouring. The excellent *Hezekiah* frequently prays, and occasionally preaches; but never fights and never sins. Accordingly, he seldom interests, and is in fact the most insipid personage in the oratorio, or "sacred drama," as it is entitled by the authors. The librettist, Miss Abercrombie, has done nothing to redeem this cardinal defect, and Mr. Hatton's scanty opportunities of writing dramatically are confined to the choral music, while the chief personage of the "drama" occupies an insignificant place in the background. The choruses are the best portions of the work. The vocal solos tax the singers severely, without profitable results. The Crystal Palace Choir did their work well, and the solo vocalists, Madames Sherrington, Patey, and Reimar, Mr. Lloyd and Mr. Santley, exerted themselves to the utmost. Mr. Manns conducted with his usual ability, and with an evident desire to do all in his power to secure the success of the work. Mr. Hatton was heartily cheered at the termination of the performance. He has long enjoyed well-merited popularity as the composer of some of the best part-songs and ballads we possess, and may be congratulated on his creditable effort in the highest department of the art which he has adorned.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS AND NEW-YEAR'S GIFTS.—The most acceptable are ROWLANDS' MACASSAR OIL, for the Hair; ROWLANDS' ODONTO, for whitening the Teeth; and ROWLANDS' KALYDOR, for beautifying the Complexion. Sold by all Chemists, Perfumers, and Hair-dressers.—[ADVT.]

A TOILET GEM.—"Golden Star" Bay Leaf Water, unrivalled as a Toilet Water for its delightful and remarkably delicate aromatic odour. The pleasures and benefits of a bath are increased wonderfully by the addition of a small quantity of it. Extraordinary tonic properties are conceded to it for the nervous and those suffering from headache or fatigue. Beware of spurious imitations. Buy only the "Golden Star" Bay Leaf Water, which name is registered for protection. Sold by all Chemists and Perfumers.—[ADVT.]

KEATING'S COUGH LOZENGES contain no Opium, Morphia, nor any violent drug. It is the most effective remedy known to the Medical Profession in the cure of COUGHS, ASTHMA, BRONCHITIS—one Lozenge alone relieves. Dr. J. BRINGLOE, M.R.C.S.L., L.S.A., L.M., writes: July 25, 1877, "Your Lozenges are excellent, and their beneficial effects most reliable; I strongly recommend them." Sold by all Chemists, in Boxes 1s. 1d., and 2s. 6d. each.—[ADVT.]

CHEAP POCKET HANDKERCHIEFS.—Every gentleman who appreciates the luxury of a real Irish linen cambric handkerchief should write to Robinson and Cleaver, Belfast, for samples (post-free) of their gents' fine linen cambric, hemmed for use, at 8s. 1d. per dozen, and their gentlemen's hem-stitched handkerchiefs (now so much worn), beautifully fine, at 12s. 9d. per dozen. By so doing a genuine article (all pure flax) will be secured, and a saving effected of at least 50 per cent.—[ADVT.]





"Is Fox your name, sir?" roared the Captain.—*The Captain's Cabin.*

## PICTURES FROM THE CHRISTMAS BOOKS.

—*Vide Reviews.*

### THOUGHTS OF PAST DAYS.

Oh, love! first felt when summer days were bluest,  
And warm the rural solitude, where brightly  
The beech-wood's leaves, how richly thou imbuest  
Life with delights of Paradise when newest,  
When glances coyly charmed, and hand touched slightly,



Enchanted the sweet blood with faith the truest;  
And brought the time when the kiss given nightly  
Out-paragoned all preciousness. A waking  
To hear her voice, and at the casement meet her,  
And take the treasured rose, than all things sweeter,  
Save her red lips—to rove we know not whither,  
Lost in each other, growing one together.  
If heaven be happiness, love, 'tis of thy making!  
—*Cassell's Family Magazine.*



"Squill leapt up, and, holding the net he had made under the hole Frogbit was making, caught her. 'Poor bird!' said Malilot."—*The Chicken Market and other Fairy Tales.*



"Patches, 1650."—*The Art of Beauty.*



"Vulgarity, pure and simple."—*The Art of Beauty.*

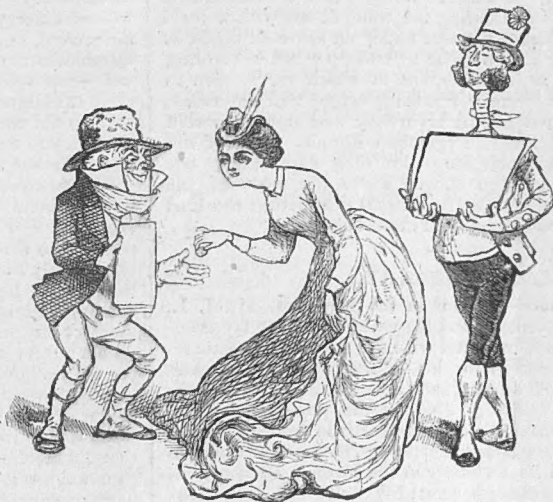


The Lists at Ashby. Rowena and Ivanhoe.—*Marcus Ward's Edition of the Waverley Novels.*





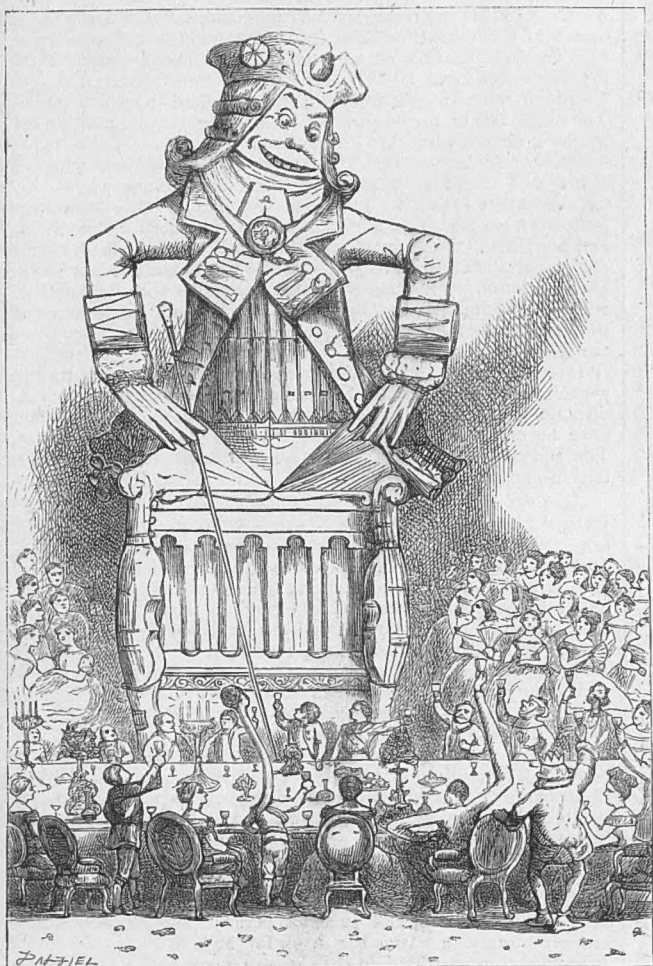
"He's just what we want for a Free-and-Easy."—*Our Trip to Blunderland.*



"Turning round they saw a young lady, dressed in perfect taste, the only blunders about her being that she had no hair on her head but her own, which was neither dyed nor bleached."—*Our Trip to Blunderland.*



"I'll give it to you."—*Our Trip to Blunderland.*



"There in a moment, stood a full orchestra, with a monster organ in the middle, as Blunderbore's gold-striped coat and waistcoat became gilded pipes, his curly locks fell in a shower of cornets and French horns—his stock made a full sized drum, his cuffs, &c."—*Our Trip to Blunderland.*



"So saying she began to perform a most wild minuet de la cour, the policeman beating time with his hands."—*Our Trip to Blunderland.*

## PICTURES FROM THE CHRISTMAS BOOKS.

—*Vide Reviews.*



"'Lozenges!' shouted the jury."—*Our Trip to Blunderland.*



"Topo—her favorite position."—*Topo.*



### THE PARISH PRIEST.

"'A damsel must let no man seek her himself,' says the old man, as he hammers at the rotten wood of his fergola."—*North Italian Folk.*



"Topo Rotondo."—*Topo.*



## THE DRAMA.

At those theatres where the time-honoured custom of providing pantomimes or other novelties for their Christmas patrons still prevails, preparations on an unusually grand scale are in active operation both night and day for the production of their respective specialties. The form of entertainment so long traditionally associated with Christmas will again be adopted this year at Drury Lane, Covent Garden, the Adelphi, Gaiety (matinées only), Aquarium Theatre, at the Surrey, Standard, and numerous other outlying theatres, and at the Crystal and Alexandra Palaces—of these the first performances take place this afternoon at the Gaiety, Adelphi, Aquarium, and the Crystal and Alexandra Palaces. The Surrey, Grecian, Marylebone, and Elephant and Castle launch their pantomimes on Christmas Eve (Monday), and the Standard, Sanger's, Britannia, and Pavilion commence theirs on the afternoon of Boxing Day (Wednesday), while the two great houses, Drury Lane and Covent Garden, defer their Christmas treat till the orthodox Boxing Night.

The Gaiety and Globe have anticipated the festive period by the production at the former, on Monday week, of *The Grasshopper*, Mr. Hollingshead's adaptation of *La Cigale*, and at the latter by the appearance on Monday last of Mr. Toole, in some of his most popular impersonations. The Olympic and Folly present their Christmas bill of fare to-night. Her Majesty's Theatre and the Strand, on Boxing Night, and the Lyceum re-opens on the afternoon of Boxing Day with the re-appearance of Mr. Henry Irving in *The Lyons Mail*.

An amateur performance was given by the First Surrey Artillery Dramatic Club, at the Gaiety Theatre, on Saturday afternoon, under the patronage of the Princess Mary (Duchess of Teck), the Duke of Teck, and other distinguished personages. The pieces selected for the occasion were the farce of *The Irish Tutor*, and Byron's Comedy, *Randal's Thumb*. Both were, on the whole, very creditably represented by the amateurs, who were aided by the excellent acting of Mr. Teesdale, as Randal, in the comedy; and some professional actresses, including Miss Marlett and the Misses Kate and Jessie Carlyon. Among the amateurs who especially distinguished themselves were—Lieut. Wall, for his spirit and humour as Terry O'Rourke (Dr. O. Toole); and Captain Spark as Dr. Flail, in the farce; and Captain Murphy and Lieut. Curtice, in the comedy. The performance afforded infinite satisfaction to the distinguished and crowded audience. H.R.H. the Princess Mary was prevented by indisposition from attending; but the Duke of Teck, who is honorary colonel of the corps, was present, as well as several members of the Chinese and Japanese Embassies.

Another amateur performance took place at the Park Theatre, on Saturday afternoon, when the "Camden Comedy Company" appeared in two original pieces—*True Hearts*, a three act comedy, by Dr. Edward B. Aveling, who appeared in one of the principal parts; and *Zitella*, a burlesque by Tiffins Thudd.

The voluminous and diversified programme of dramatic and musical entertainments provided for the special festival at the Royal Aquarium, on Saturday, in aid of the General Theatrical Fund, was faithfully and scrupulously carried out, with one exception, and attracted very large audiences, especially to the excellent concerts, both in the afternoon (when Mr. Sims Reeves sang in his best style two of his most popular songs, "Tom Bowling," in lieu of Blumenthal's "Message," and "My Pretty Jane,") and evening. The exception alluded to was the compulsory substitution, at the last moment, of *The School for Scandal*, with the same cast, as when recently played here, for *La Fille de Madame Angot*, in the dramatic selections from popular current pieces, given in the theatre in the afternoon. The results of the festival will doubtless be greatly beneficial to the meritorious institution for which it was promoted.

The *Creole* and *Shooting Stars*, although intended to have been withdrawn on Friday week, were continued at the Folly during the Cattle Show week, and were represented for the last time on Saturday night, the theatre remaining closed during the week, to re-open this evening with Messrs. C. Wyndham and A. Mathison's musical madness, *A Night of Terror*.

At the Standard, Mr. Buckstone and his Haymarket Comedy Company extended their engagement to the first three nights of the week, when they appeared in *Married Life* and *The Serious Family*, and to-night they repeat *The School for Scandal*, on the occasion of the benefit of the Messrs. Douglas.

At St. George's Hall a change was to be made in the programme of Mr. and Mrs. German Kee's entertainment, last night, when a new musical sketch entitled *A Musical Almanac*, was to be introduced by Mr. Corney Grain, and Mr. Burnand's No. 204, was to be replaced by a revival of *Our New Doll's House*, remounted with new scenery, &c.

To-night, Mr. Neville revives *The Turn of the Tide* at the Olympic. The Folly re-opens, with its Christmas fare, as stated above, and the Girards and Martinelli troupe make their appearance in the new comic ballet d'action, at the Adelphi.

In addition to the other numerous morning performances on Boxing Day, there will be a representation of *Jane Shore* at the Princesses.

The St. James's Theatre opens on Saturday evening next, the 29th inst., under the direction of Mr. S. Hayes, for a special and farewell engagement of Miss Ada Cavendish, previous to her departure for America.

## GAIETY THEATRE.

*La Cigale*, a comic drama in three acts, the latest work of MM. Meilhac and Halevy, written specially for Madame Chaumont, produced last October at the Variétés, Paris, and still in the height of popularity, has been skillfully adapted for the English stage, by Mr. John Hollingshead, and produced at the Gaiety, on Monday week, under the title of *The Grasshopper*. From a prefatory note by Mr. Hollingshead on the programme, we learn that, beyond giving the characters English names, transferring the scene to England, some condensations in the first and third acts, and necessary alterations in the second act, the plot, the characters (with one or two slight exceptions), and the dramatic points, as they were invented by the authors, remain in his adaptation, so that it may reasonably be inferred that, with the above exceptions, *La Cigale* and *The Grasshopper* are, in all other respects, identical. The latter, with which alone we have to deal, as represented at the Gaiety, is a well-written, bright, and thoroughly amusing little piece, although there is little of plot in it, and that little not new, being a mixture of *The Daughter of the Regiment* and of *The Bohemian Girl*; but still the familiar theme is rendered fresh and interesting by novelty of treatment and ingenious combinations of new and highly-diverting comic incidents and situations. The interest centres in the adventures and career of the heroine, a young star acrobat, nicknamed "The Grasshopper" by the company of the travelling circus to which she is attached. In one scene are exhibited several cleverly executed pictures by Mr. Gordon Thompson and Signor Pellegrini, in humorous and exaggerated caricature of the styles of some artists and of affectations of modern art—these include "The Lost Israeli," after Gainsborough, "Wagner struggling with the Power of Sound," after Mr. Leighton; "Mr. Gladstone coquetting with Young Ireland," after Millais; "The Roll Call in the Lowther Arcade," after Miss Thompson; "The Apotheosis of Henry Irving," after Mr.

Whistler, of whom there is an excellent portrait, and whose style is adroitly satirised in "Dual Harmony," two broad parallel streaks of red and blue representing the tranquil sea with a lurid sky—or reversed, the burning desert under an azure sky. Miss Farren is the life and soul of *The Grasshopper* as the heroine, which is exactly suited to her style, and in which she is seen to the greatest advantage. She is unusually bright and animated. Mr. Terry ably seconded her by his artistic and unexaggerated humour as the young artist, Pygmalion Flippit. Few of the other characters afford much scope for their exponents; but Messrs Soutar, Maclean, and Royce made the most of the characters respectively of Old Gyngeall, circus proprietor; the Earl of Bogland, and his son Sydney—all mere sketches.

## GLOBE THEATRE.

After a long and successful tour in the provinces, Mr. J. L. Toole has returned to London, and reappeared on Monday evening at the Globe Theatre, and met with the most enthusiastic reception. The pieces selected for his *reentrée* were Mr. Byron's farcical comedy, *Artful Cards*, and Mr. Hollingshead's well-known farce *The Birthplace of Podgers*, the popular comedian enacting with all his accustomed effect and artistic drollery, his oft-repeated assumption of the henpecked lawyer, Robert Spicer Romford, in the former, and *Tom Cranky* in the latter. Between the pieces Mr. Toole exhibited his versatility and skill in various character delineations in a "monologue," entitled *Trying a Magistrate*. In this sketch Mr. Toole not only represents the presiding magistrate at one of the police-courts—a testy, irritable gentleman, short of vision and hard of hearing, but also the complainants, defendants, and the several witnesses connected with two cases heard before him, the first consisting of an Irish matrimonial quarrel and assault case, and the latter of a dispute arising out of omnibus "nursing," resulting in a collision. From beginning to end Mr. Toole kept the audience in a state of uninterrupted laughter, by his natural and extremely humorous assumption of the various personages he imitated.

## CHRISTMAS BOOKS AND OTHERS.

THAT the season has been unusually prolific of books suitable for a period when readers of the most cursory description are supposed to take an interest in Christmas literature, a glance at the booksellers' advertisements in our own and contemporary journals readily proves. It were vain to attempt, in the limited space at our disposal, to do other than notice with the utmost brevity more than a small portion of the works which, under this heading, might fairly be reviewed. We shall have to content ourselves with supplying passing indications rather than elaborate critical guides; with succinct descriptions in place of searching reviews. To begin, then, one of the most remarkable books of the season, regarded from an art point of view, is

*North Italian Folk Sketches of Town and Country Life*. By MRS. COMYNS CARR. Illustrated by Randolph Caldecott. Chatto and Windus.—The phrase, "from an art point of view," must not be misconstrued. Mrs. Carr's graceful essays would of themselves have commanded approval. They are memory pictures of a rare sort. It is easy to see that her heart is in every stroke of a pen that is never used except to recall some of the pleasant light and colour and life that enriched her years' since experience of North Italian Folk. It is only by the side of Mr. Caldecott's perfectly charming drawings that the written pictures appear to lose some of their effect. Only, be it remembered, that an artist endowed with Mr. Caldecott's amazing gifts seldom "happens" more than once in a century. A few lines from Mrs. Carr's preface will help our readers to gauge the delightful literary contents of the book. "The folk about whom my gossip shall be are folk who, living or dead, have made the best part of Italy these many years gone by. They are those who, unwittingly, inherit most of the poetry for which their nation, long ago, won its fame; on them—innocent of lore and reading though they, most of them, be—has fallen something that recalls the great names of their own great men of the past. They are of the people. To them rather than to others in the land belong the freedom and freshness, the grace and goodheartedness, the frank honesty that finds a place even beside worldly-wise prudence the simple and courteous dignity which the educated classes have not always been able to maintain. No one who has lived long beside them could have failed to learn the grace of their ways, the humour of their rustic simplicity; no one who has grown up in their midst could ever forget their pleasant faces and quaint enthusiasms, their friendly greetings, their frank speech and emphatic opinions. I, who thus learned to know them in days gone by, am fain now to set down some memory of those sun-lit scenes of the past. My sketches will not always be portraits of living people or existing things, but they will always be sketches of things or friends that have been: recollections vignettes in the past, rather than photographs taken on the spot." Mrs. Carr's work is altogether agreeable reading. Now and then one comes across a passage which savours of Ruskinian, but for the most part she writes with an unaffected enjoyment of what she has to say, and we read on as though we were listening to a good talker whose gifts included, besides a capacity to say the right thing in the most graceful manner, a highly animated countenance and a memorable voice. Thus much the author. The draughtsman deserves the highest praise. He, of all men who are drawing now, knows how to express with quaint felicity an entire gamut of varying expression by the most economical means. No matter how small the figures are, or how sketchy, the faces he delineates are full of character, the forms distinguished by subtle diversity of intention and lively movement. By the kindness of the publishers we are enabled to reproduce two of those charming illustrations, but we may observe that, although in view of the exigencies of newspaper-printing we deemed them best suited for our purpose, they by no means express the delicacy of many of Mr. Caldecott's drawings. Some bits of landscape are delicious, and the sketches severally entitled, "On-lookers at the Procession of Palms," "Gossip," and "The Seamstress," show a grip of drawing and character that is as felicitous as it is fresh. *North Italian Folk* is the book of the season. The engravings, with the exception of a certain, perhaps unavoidable, wiriness in several of them, have been well executed by Swain. But Mr. Caldecott ought to etch his own designs.

*The Art of Beauty*. By MRS. H. R. HAWEIS. Chatto and Windus.—If it were not the height of ungallantry to call the wife of one of the most popular parsons of the day a prig, we should feel sorely tempted to affix that epithet to the author of this interesting yet aggravating book. Everybody who is in the subject she has dealt with, such a mixture of knowledge and affectation, should read "The Art of Beauty." It is a book that ought to be on sale at all the fashionable hair-dressers and perfumers in the kingdom. We have read most of Mrs. Haweis's pages with a feeling of sincere admiration; the rest of them with much regret. That she is an artist in feeling is evident from her observations on becoming colour and form in female attire; to say nothing of her sketches (specimens of which we are enabled to reproduce on another page), which display both

spirit and an uncommon sense of humour. But, marry come! What next? Has it come to this that the wholesome-natured wife of a clergyman of the Church of England is to be allowed, unbuked, to advocate the use of powder and paint as aids to female adornment? We trow not. Note some of Mrs. Haweis's well-couraged observations: "For all that let it be remembered, there is nothing in the world so becoming as grey hair-powder, both to old and young. It softens the whole face, gives a strange brilliancy to the eyes and complexion, and makes the eyebrows and eyelashes appear much darker than they really are." Again: "We are struck at Milan by the extreme beauty and grace of the women, some of them with hair powdered white, others, &c. Again: "For full dress I have already advocated the use of hair-powder, so that I need only repeat that this is one of the most surprisingly becoming fashions ever invented by a crafty woman to beautify herself. . . . The powder used in the last century with such disagreeable results was a kind of meal, very unfit for our purpose; modern hair-powders are quite different." Again: "At any rate, whatever 'goody' people may say about the folly of dyeing one's natural locks, if women must beautify beauty, it would be far more pretty to powder their heads with colour or gold," &c. So much for powder. This is what Mrs. Haweis has to say on the subject of—Paint. "It seems to me that (apart from the risk of injuring the cuticle of the skin, a common result of bad pastes and powders) there is not any more harm or degradation in avowedly hiding defects of complexion, or touching the face with pink or white, than in padding the dress, piercing the ears, or replacing a lost tooth." "Let them take off that ridiculous bustle, and put a little harmless powder over that unsightly red scar on the cheek, . . . and just evaporate with one tiny touch of white the red spot on their nose." "There are transparent cosmetics which leave the pores open whilst they tint the skin, &c." But enough and to spare of such counsel. Take it for all in all the book is eminently deserving of perusal, and is well and carefully illustrated. It should afford an uncommonly fruitful theme for Christmas discussion. The excellence of the engravings is in some degree exemplified by the examples which are given on another page.

*Wildcat Tower; or the Adventures of Four Boys in pursuit of Sport and Natural History in the North Country*. By G. CHRISTOPHER DAVIES. Frederick Warne and Co.—A famous book for boys, by an author who last year produced, "The Swan and her Crew," a volume that has delighted thousands of young readers, and is destined to give pleasure to thousands more. Mr. Davies is strongly imbued with that sympathy with boy-nature, without which no author, however clever, has a right to attempt the hearty entertainment or playful instruction of young people of the stronger sex. Moreover, there is little or nothing of the Mr. Barlow about him. He enters with robust zest into the sports and pleasures of country life, and, whether got at second-hand or not, displays a knowledge of birds, beasts, and fishes, which would have become either Charles Waterton or White of Selborne. The illustrations—one of which we reproduce—are numerous, faithful, and artistic.

*Topo; a Tale about English Children in Italy*. By G. E. BRUNEFILLE. Marcus Ward & Co.—Although there is no lack of proper excitement and genuine fun in this narrative of the indoor and out-door adventures of the three children of Mr. and Mrs. Lynne, in their home "among the mountains of North Italy, not very far from the sea, and not very far from the Alps," the chief attraction of the book has been furnished by Kate Greenaway, who has embellished the text with forty-four charming drawings in pen-and-ink. We are much mistaken if *Topo* fail to secure the joyousness of welcomes from the wondering worshippers of Santa Claus.—*The Illustrated Waverley Novels* (Marcus Ward & Co.) have the advantage of being printed in clear type upon excellent paper. They are, moreover, neatly bound. The edition ought to become popular, more especially as the drawings (one of which we reproduce) besides being remarkably spirited, show a good deal of unusual knowledge of "the periods" that are severally illustrated.—From the same publishers, we have *Aunt Charlotte's Stories of German History for the Little Ones*, by the practised pen of Charlotte M. Yonge. Her "endeavour to sketch the main outlines of the history of the German Empire" in a clear, attractive, and succinct manner, may be pronounced entirely successful. This is a book for boys to buy—and keep. It is affluently illustrated in the German manner.—Marcus Ward and Co. make another bid for the patronage of the youngsters, with *Heroes of North African Discovery*, by N. D'Anvers, who explains in a prefatory note, that "in the volume the term 'North Africa' is applied to all districts north of the Equator, and every 'hero' who traversed a greater number of miles above than below that boundary line is noticed in it." The author has devoted nearly four hundred pages to the task, which he has performed successfully, and in a manner calculated to attract youthful readers, of telling the story of North African Discovery, from the earliest period of which chronicles exist to the present time. A list of the books consulted by him in the preparation of his interesting narrative is given. It embraces such ancient and modern authorities as Herodotus, Petermann's, "Mittheilungen," Pinkerton's Voyages, Bruce's Travels in Abyssinia, Mungo Park's Travels in Africa, Burckhardt's Travels in Nubia, Laing's Travels to Timbuktu, Speke, Stanley, Beke, Baker, Henty, and a number of others. The book is profusely illustrated with excellent engravings.—*The Flag Lieutenant, a Story of the Slave Squadron*, by S. Whitechurch Sadler, R.N., author of "Last Cruise of the Ariadne," "Ship of Ice," &c. (Marcus Ward and Co.), is precisely the kind of book to be placed in the hand of a youth who is suffering from a course of Fleet Street Penny Dreadfuls. The is sufficient stirring adventure in it to satisfy even an admirer of that standard book "Claude Duval, the Dashing Highwayman," while the fact of its being written by a genuine sailor, ought to tell in its favour. There is a fine healthy spirit in this exciting story, and an abundance of the desirable flavour which belongs to an Old Salt's Yarn. The illustrations are from the sympathetic pencil of our Mr. Petherick.

For artistic excellence, novelty and variety of design, richness of colouring, and general attractiveness, the Christmas cards of Messrs Marcus Ward and Co. carry the palm far away from all we have yet seen. Fruits and flowers, gorgeous butterflies and moths, rainbow-hued shells, the brilliant plumage of birds, and chubby little children's Cupid-like faces and forms, &c., blend in rich diversity of fancy in these dainty devices for lending old Father Christmas new and appropriate charms, and clothing with fresh graces the most graceful sentiments and compliments of the genial season.

WE are compelled for want of space, to hold over until next week, the remainder of the Reviews of books, from which we have given illustrations, including *The Captain's Cabin*, *Blunderland*, *Shoddy* and other books.

ADELPHI.—Christmas entertainments will be provided at this theatre, both in the afternoons and evenings. In the afternoons, commencing to-day, will be produced a new children's pantomime, entitled *Robin Hood*, and supported entirely by children, and in the evenings also, commencing to-night. The Girards and Marinelli troupe will appear in a comic ballet d'action, entitled *The Enchanted Barber; or, Hans Ketsler's Close Shave*. *Formosa* will still continue in the evening bills.



## ATHLETICS, AQUATICS, &amp;c.

No one can accuse the executive of the London Athletic Club of lukewarmness, as since they took to themselves a ground of their own at Stamford Bridge, a series of meetings and handicaps have kept the members and their friends fully occupied week after week. On Saturday last the attraction was a 300 yards handicap for three handsome cups, open to all amateurs, with the customary restrictions. The entries, however, were far from what should be the case, and the, in my mind, absurd idea of allowing the first three to compete in the final, quite spoilt sport in the preliminary heats, three in number. Eventually the winner turned up in G. Pinnock, L.A.C., 16 yards, who came in a yard and a half before R. H. Ball, Richmond F.C., 6 yards, who only beat F. W. Robinson, L.A.C., 7 yards, by a foot; B. St. J. Hough, 14 yards, fourth, a yard in the rear of the third man. Time, 32.2.5 sec. An amalgamated run by members of the South London Harriers, Spartan Harriers, and Thames Hare and Hounds took place the same day at Roehampton, the head-quarters of the last-named club, the King's Head being the rendezvous. The conventional "mess" was made over the trail, and darkness setting in, they started back by mutual consent, C. H. Mason reaching home first; H. Stenning second; H. Y. Groombridge third; and J. J. Bateman fourth; all these being members of the home team. H. D. Thomas, F. Evitt, P. F. Harris, and R. B. A. Sprange, representing the South London pack, followed in the order given, and after them J. A. Squires whipped in for the Spartans, having as his companion M. H. Tallant, of the S.L.H. Distance covered estimated at about seven miles, and the time, 52½ secs. In the evening an *assaut d'armes*, for the benefit of Professor, late Trooper, Otterway, was given at Prof.-or Waite's Rooms, Golden Square, Regent Street, when a select company witnessed an equally select performance. The amateurs who obliged were Messrs. Tait, Hartjen, R. Hanzard, C. Battye, C. Thorpe, Mason, Sowerby, and Stevens, the professional element being admirably represented by the *beneficiaries*, Professor Waite, Corporals Storer, James, and Blackburn, of the Life Guards, and Professors T. Goller, W. Driscoll, and Thorne. The programme being of the usual varied description. "Having noticed (to use his own words) a statement to the effect that Mr. Dixon and myself are stated to have walked a 100 hours' match," Mr. E. M. R. Dundas hastens to contradict, what any follower of athletic pursuits ought to have known was but a slip of the pen, but adds, "it is almost as good as arranged that we shall meet next year again, to try conclusions over a twenty-four hours; or even forty-eight hours' spin." All I can say is, I hope that the race will take place, and if it does, for once in his life time, "Exon" will plunge on a walking match, and moreover, not back the "big un." Every true lover of athletics will regret to hear that Mr. E. T. Sachs is shortly to journey to the East; he is a good handicapper, and will be missed by his club; for my part I wish him luck wherever he may be.

It has often been said that there is nothing like persecution to cause anything to thrive, and in the matter of glove fights and glove fighters this has been exemplified pretty fully of late. No end of displays for cups and other trophies have taken place, the principal of which was the one in which the exponents were Punch Dowsett and Tom Hawkins, and the award a 50 sovs cup and the title of Champion of the Feather Weights. Judging by all accounts, it was a rare treat to every one concerned, the actual performers excepted, and eventuated, after having been postponed, in a draw. An eye-witness, who is about the most reliable informant I know, tells me that the men are both sterling good ones, but that Dowsett ought to have finished his man off about the twenty-eighth round (they fought forty-five), and that Hawkins is just about as game as they are made. The other competition was between a brace of Israelites, and proved as great a sell as the previously recorded one was good. "Moe" (why not Moses, Mr. Stakeholder?) Raphael and Young Dutchey were the names the "pugs" rejoiced in, and they sparred for a 20 sovs. cup. It appears that at the conclusion of about a minute and thirty-six seconds, during which barely a blow was struck, a scrimmage took place, during which the namesake of the Jewish lawgiver slipped down. Now comes the point; the representative of the stakeholder says that "Young Dutchey, instead of stepping back to wait for his opponent to get up and resume fighting, stood over him, and as he was in the act of rising, with one knee on the ground, deliberately dealt him a blow on the side of the head, whereupon, deafening cries of "Foul," &c. &c., whilst I hear from my afore-mentioned source, that it was simply a push with the glove in the face. The referee allowed the appeal, and so far, the affair was over. Good judges, and I quite coincide with them, say that the decision was a most absurd one, but the referee, in a most egotistical article, claims to be right, on the grounds that the articles stipulated "that, under no circumstances, would a man be allowed to stand over his opponent, whilst the latter was getting up." If this be so, why did the referee wait for the blow, to create the foul? as, according to the articles, Dutchey had lost the fight by the simple fact of standing over his man; and if he used his discretion in that case, he certainly ought to have done so in the matter of the blow, which, by his own showing, according to the rules, was perfectly fair. By the bye, how about that blow? Hawkins struck Dowsett *after the call of Time*, when the same immaculate referee officiated? He used his discretion then.

I should very much like to know who the person was who drew up those articles, which are opposed to any previous ones, and would have disqualified Davis when he boxed Stewart and many others I could mention; no doubt they emanated from that brain which now sees in a professional boxer of any class a being barely second to an angel; his experience of them is very different to mine. Some pugilists are certainly more worthy of the name of gentlemen than those who run them down, but they represent that small portion of the pugnacious flock that the brown sheep does in a fold of the legitimately coloured quadruped. I do not wish to impute guile to the referee, who, I believe, did what he considered the correct thing, but why is it that "novices" will venture to accept those offices which are refused by many who are thoroughly conversant with the sport? A cock must not crow too often on a dunghill not his own, even if the proper occupant be for a time absent, the latter might come back at an awkward moment, and floor the intruder. I speak in an enigmatical manner, these remarks being called forth by a series of personalities that have appeared in other columns. Charlie Davis, who to my mind is one of the best men we have at his weight, can, so it is stated on reliable authority, be matched with Tom Allen for the championship and a cup to be of not less value than 200 sovs. Should this come off, and judging by Mr. Allen's previous talk there is every probability of its doing so, this will be such a treat as the lovers of the noble art have not witnessed for years. There is no doubt that at the present moment the professional boxer is having a fair trial given him, and if the respectable portion will not take the trouble to keep the "noble art" up to the required standard, by casting aside the scum, and carrying out their various competitions in a proper fashion, they will only have themselves to blame if they find that their occupation is gone for ever.

Cornwall and Devon wrestling is my especial delight, and few lines sent me by a friend, convey the information that the com-

petition for the champion belt and ten sovs. has ended in favour of Richard Pike, a North Devonite, but now of Bow, London; Thos. Bragg, of Plymouth, takes 6 sovs. as second man; P. Hancock, St. Austell, third, receiving 4 sovs.; T. Caddy, St. Austell, 2 sovs., and G. Wreyford, of Silvertown, one sov.; there being five prizes. Sam Rundle writes from Plymouth, stating that he has forwarded articles for Joe Menear's perusal, and when they are agreed to, he will go on with the match. I hope the little engagement comes off, if it does, "Exon" will be there, if it be five hundred miles away.

The quoit match between Ben Wilkinson, of Newton Moor, Hyde, Cheshire, with John Selby, of London, requires only a move in the right direction from the cockney, as the provincial has sent his fiver to the proposed stakeholder; indeed, ere this is in print, preliminaries may have been satisfactory concluded.

Professional pedestrianism, especially the walking branch, must be now I fancy at its lowest ebb. Shade of Westhall, bestir thyself, the champion short distance walker, W. Perkins, is burlesquing that art of which thou wert so bright an ornament. When Perkins and Howes had completed that marvellous three hours' walk, lovers of walking looked forward to a new era; how greatly they have been disappointed is proved by the fact that the crack is now actually doing time, on a music hall stage, over a course but 28 yards in circumference. I am only surprised that any sporting journal can, by giving a record, encourage such mountebank performances. A friend looking over my shoulder, says "you are looking on the worst side of the picture, even this is better than those miserable barneys of the past." He, moreover, wishes to know whether Perkins will accommodate anyone "round a soup plate?" The various Christmas handicaps are well patronised, and much tall running may be anticipated at head quarters, although the way Wallace and some others have been treated is a caution. However, this is not much in my line, and therefore I'll pass on to another branch of sport.

Billiards have in past years been one of the principal attractions of the Cattle Show week, it having been customary for the crack performers to engage in a series of matches under what is now known as the Tournament Principle. Mr. Thos. Darke, a well-known promoter of sport, having taken upon himself the management of the billiard saloon attached to the Philharmonic Theatre, Islington, determined this year to arrange a similar handicap, but his efforts proved futile, the absence of the champion from England, and Cook's engagements in the provinces, together with the refusal of some of the second-raters to play, causing the affair to collapse. Determined, however, to keep faith with the public as far as he could, Mr. Darke made arrangements with that prince of all-round players, Joseph Bennett, the ex-champion, and S. W. Stanley, to give a series of entertainments every afternoon and evening during the week. The efforts of the promoter, however, did not, I regret to state, meet with the support that they deserved, and taken in a pecuniary light, were a "frost." However, those who did attend saw the game of billiards played as it should be, despite the fact that some of those who had declined to compete in the tournament came over to "merrie" Islington more than once to make a mock and jeer of players far their superior in every way. On Monday and Tuesday they played 800 up, but finding this rather too long a game to be followed by pyramids, they then changed it to 500 up. On the first day Stanley won both games by 21 and 229, but on Tuesday the honours were divided, Bennett winning the afternoon game by 169, but in the evening Stanley took the billiards by 105 and the pyramids by two games to one. Wednesday afternoon's play was most exciting, Stanley, after being upward of 200 points in the rear, winning by 24, but as the spot hazard player was engaged elsewhere in the evening, when G. Hunt played as substitute, and Bennett giving him 100 in 500 at billiards, won by 143, and allowing a ball each game in the best of five at pyramids took the first five. On Thursday Bennett won by 195 in the billiards, but Stanley took the first three games at pyramids, and as the younger player was unavoidably absent in the evening, Bennett gave a series of exhibitions a hundred up, with amateurs conceding 40 and 50 points, during which he showed some of the grandest allround play ever witnessed. Friday evening saw the conclusion of the play, as there was none in the afternoon, when Bennett won a fine game by 72 points, whilst Stanley carried off the pyramids by three games to one. C. Herring during the week marked the games in a careful and audible manner, which might well be emulated by those who fill that office at more pretentious matches; and as he takes a benefit on Monday evening, at Mr. Darke's saloon, playing W. Roberts 500 up even, I wish him the success he deserves. Since my last, Mr. W. Shee's handicap, at the Perseverance, has been concluded, and Mr. R. Topping, winning the final heat, takes first prize, Mr. Rowe the second, Mr. R. Lill the third, and Mr. T. Trew the fourth. At the Perseverance also F. Shorter and T. Taylor have contested 1,000 up for the benefit of Tom Stuart, who has never thoroughly recovered his accident, and "Fred" won by 199 points, his best break being 106 (30 spots). Shorter has also conceded H. Victor 300 in 1,000 at the Coach and Horses, Mile End-road, for £20, two runs of 100 (21 spots), and 144 (44 spots), conducing to his being victorious by 286 points. Stanley and Taylor have opposed each other in an exhibition, 1,000, at the Red Lion, Lower Deptford, the game being as exciting as if for a heavy bet, it being known that Cleopatra's, or someone-else's "needle" was about either player being backed. Some fine play was shown on the part of each, and eventually Taylor was defeated by 66 points, the best contributions during the evening being Stanley, 89 (24 spots), 66 (17 spots), 54 (8 spots), 141 (43 spots), 75 (21 spots), 68 (20 spots), 84 (24 spots), and 53 all round; Taylor, 86 (27 spots), 87 (27 spots), 101 (28 spots), 125 (37 spots), 64 (15 spots), and 157 (47 spots), a return which shows that both meant business, as when genuinely opposed to each other these youngsters always go for the top of the table. The amateur handicap at the Post Office Hotel, Manchester, has also come to a conclusion, and Mr. G. Martin beating Mr. W. Wood, secured the first prize. A challenge appeared a few days back in a contemporary, purporting to come from S. W. Stanley to W. Cook, offering "to play him two matches for £100 each, one taking one ball at pyramids, the other at billiards, if Cook will concede 300 in 1000." On the best authority I am informed that this "par" appeared without the sanction of Stanley, but a reply has come forth from Cook to the effect that "he will not concede more than 250 points in 1000 at billiards." Cook is willing to give Stanley one ball at pyramids, and play him for £100 aside, the best of twenty-one games. This would not be "jam" for one player at any rate; but it is needless to discuss the affair further, as it is sure to end in "gas."

Aquatics are naturally rather quiet, but I must congratulate myself upon having brought off one "outsider tip" over the University trial eight, as I spotted the winner of the Dark Blue race, although I was out in the rival contest. Nicholson, with that self importance which always follows upon victory, has been "chipping" at Boyd, offering to take 5secs. start, as he did with Blackman. The ex-champion, sensibly, does not see it, and gives the challenger a tolerably fair "sitting down" upon, if he will only take it. Whilst either Boyd, Higgins, or Blackman keep fit and well my opinion is, and always will be, that on fair terms Nicholson will have to take a back seat; good sculler as he is. Our American cousins are all abroad in their ideas as to who is their best man, and challenges and rumours of challenges for the championship of the world are rife. That they are likely to come

to anything definite I doubt; but the suggestion of the editor of a rising contemporary that the powers that be, in connection with the so-called International Regatta should offer a prize value 1,000 guineas, to be sculled for open to the world, is worthy of consideration; it certainly would be a "feast for the (aquatic) gods" to see Trickett, Boyd, Higgins, Blackman, Nicholson, Hanlon, Courtney, Rush, &c., all going on their merits for such a trophy; and with nothing bar expenses to lose, I don't see myself why it should not come off, if the arrangements were made at once without any dilly dallying. On Monday J. Allsopp and H. Brown sculled from Putney to Barnes, for £20, in gigs. Brown had it all his own way, led by four lengths at the Point, a hundred yards at Hammersmith Bridge, and won easily by twenty lengths. The winner rowed in the boat that caused the objection in a recent match between Fox and another, and before the start an attempt at a protest was made, but it was overruled. P. Lee showed up Brown and G. Winsley, the loser, whilst Geo. Holloway officiated as referee. The United Daily Press Rowing Club brought off a handicap on Saturday afternoon over the West London course, when the scratch man, W. White, won, W. Musgrove, 15sec next, and F. Wallis, 25sec, third; E. Killick, 10sec, and J. Wilson, 35sec, being unplaced by the referee.

Football, two weeks to review, and please every one, is little short of sending me off to Colney Hatch at once, but I will make the best of a bad job, and if I fail cannot help it. Ignoring dates, I start first with the annual Rugby match between Oxford and Cambridge Universities, at the Surrey Cricket Ground, Kennington Oval, being the fifth on the list. Close upon 1,500 persons witnessed the match, which was most stubbornly contested throughout, but eventually the Oxonians scored a victory by two tries and five "touches down" to nil. The results of the matches in the past have been—1873, drawn; 1874, Oxford, by two tries and two touches down to nothing; 1875, Oxford one try to nil; 1876, Cambridge a goal, and two tries to nothing; 1877, Oxford two tries, and five touches-down to love. In the Association Cup second ties, Oxford University have beaten Old Foresters by one goal to nothing; Wanderers, Harrow School, by four goals to one; Cambridge University, Maidenhead, by three goals to one; and Barnes, Great Marlow, by three goals to love. In the provinces, the principal match has been that between North and South, at Manchester, and after a grandly contested affair in the presence of some 5,000 spectators, the Southerners won by one goal to nothing, the play on either side being of the best description. These rival societies have met five times, and yet the honours have been equally divided, the opening contest falling to the South by three tries to a try and touch down; the second resulted in a draw; the third and fourth both being credited to the North by a try to nil, and one goal and a try to love. Nottingham have beaten Manchester by six goals to nothing; Sheffield beat Staffordshire by exactly the same points, &c. Cambridge University paid a visit to Queen's Park, Glasgow, last Saturday, and played a match against the home team under Rugby rules, and, after a rare struggle, no advantage was gained on either side. A brief summary of other matches in and around the metropolis is as follows:—Harlequins and Kensington played a draw, as did Unity and Argonauts; Royal Naval School beat Carlton United by two goals and two touches to nil; Clarendon, Eagles by one try and two touches down to love; Wolverton the Alliance by one disputed try, a touch in goal, and five touches down to nothing; Woolwich Hawks, Plumstead Rangers by a disputed try and touch to nil. Bayswater Rangers have defeated the Crusaders; Clarence Rovers the United; Spartan Rovers, the Grasshoppers; Arrows, Reindeer; Highgate Reindeers, Alma; Clapham Rovers played a draw with Pilgrims; as did Leyton and Rochester, and St. Andrew's Rovers and University College, and Walthamstow and Wimbledon. Wasps (second team) beat St. George's Hospital (second team); Upton Park Brentwood School; Wasps (1st team), Ipswich; Kings College Hospital, London Hospital; Forest Rovers, Kennington Roamers; Oakfield, Hornsey Rovers; Clapton, St. Vincent; Chesterfields, Mohawks; Ivanhoe, Saracens; Rams, Vokings; Hampstead, German Gymnastic Society; Hendon, Ramblers; Hercules, Bexley Heath; Ealing Park, Grange, &c.

This week I have indulged rather more than is my wont, and if my readers wish to know the reason why, it is that they may not forget that I am open to receive any number of parcels from Hanwell or elsewhere; and, whilst wishing them all "A Merry Christmas," I hope that they in turn will not forget to include in the toast of "Absent Friends,"

EXON.

## AMATEUR THEATRICALS IN SHEFFIELD.

Two most successful military amateur performances (in aid of the funds of the Hallamshire Rifles) took place at the Theatre Royal, Sheffield, on the nights of the 13th and 14th instants. There was a large and brilliant assemblage on both nights, and the pit and gallery were also well filled. On Thursday night the pieces produced were, first, *A Happy Pair*, after which followed Mr. Byron's well-known comedy of *Old Soldiers*. The acting of Mr. H. J. Skinner in both pieces was admirable, and was thoroughly appreciated by a most critical audience—while Captain Edward Mills (adjutant Hallamshire Rifles) as the hero, Lionel Leveret, was all that could be desired. Mr. E. Rathbone also played Captain McTavish most creditably, and the remainder of the parts were satisfactorily filled. On Friday night the pieces were *Diamond Cut Diamond* and *Plot and Passion*. The former is an amusing farce, and put the house into capital humour. Mr. Smith (Hallamshire Rifles), and Mr. Hardy (Royal Artillery), were most conspicuous by the spirit and fun which they put into the parts of Trap and Trick respectively. *Plot and Passion* formed the *pièce de resistance* of the evening, and although a most difficult play, the acting throughout was so good that the attention of the audience never flagged for a moment, although the curtain did not fall until a very late hour. Mr. Skinner again distinguished himself as "Touche," and Mr. A. H. J. Fletcher played the difficult part of "Desmaret's" in a most masterly manner. Captain Mills as "De Neuville," depicted the pamphleteer and lover with his usual power, and with all the self-possession of an old stager. Mr. Hardy threw plenty of life and fun into the part of the "Marquis de Cevennes," and Mr. P. F. Hoole made a capital "Jabot" and "Grisboulle." All the actors were called before the curtain at the end of the play, which (bearing in mind that all the male characters were sustained by amateurs) was capitally acted throughout. Miss Louise Willes, who has lately been so successful as Amy Robsart at Drury Lane Theatre, and Mrs. Richard Young with Miss Ella Strathmore, assisted the amateurs and contributed in no small degree to the success of the performances. Miss Willes, in particular, as "Madame de Fontanges" in "Plot and Passion," was simply perfection, and she several times, by her magnificent acting, roused the enthusiasm of the audience to the highest pitch. The bands of the 84th Regiment and Hallamshire Rifles played brilliantly, and were highly appreciated. Mr. Herbert Hughes Hallamshire Rifles, acted as stage manager, and displayed great energy in the performance of his arduous duties.

The South-Western Company's West End Office, 30, Regent-street, Piccadilly-circus, will be kept open till 11.0 p.m. on Friday, the 21st; Saturday, 22nd; and Monday, 24th December, for the sale of tickets and for general information.





THE LOVE LETTER.

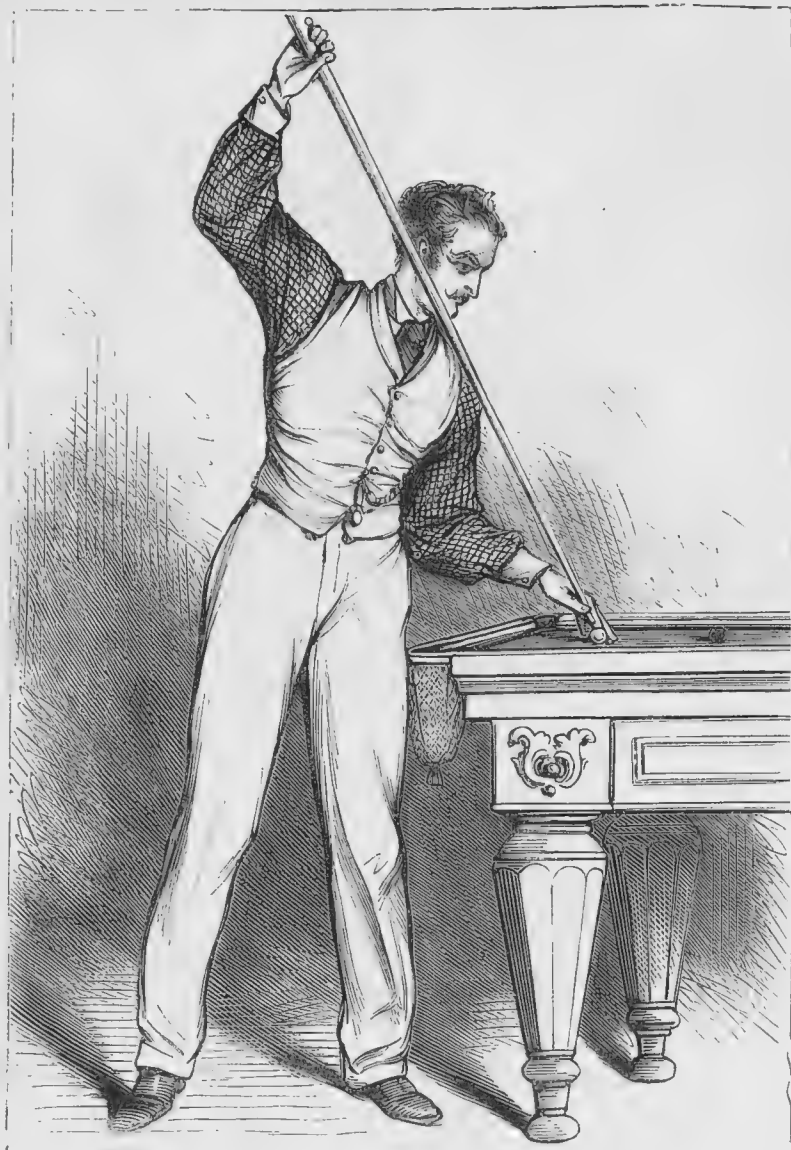
"The fine steel pen proceeds to work, and makes a few flourishes on the pink paper, while the girl looks on, eager and intent."—*North Italian Folk.*



Fashion's Slave.—*The Art of Beauty.*



Vulgarity plus Unhealthiness.—*The Art of Beauty.*



Position for a top hazard.—*The Billiard Book.*

## PICTURES FROM THE CHRISTMAS BOOKS.

—*Vide Reviews.*



Lady Berkeley. From a Drawing by Holbein.—*The Art of Beauty.*



The Front View of Wild Cat Tower.—*Wild Cat Tower.*



"Seemly or slatternly?"—*The Art of Beauty.*



From a Drawing by Holbein.—*The Art of Beauty.*



1830.

1790.

—*The Art of Beauty.*



## OUR CAPTIOUS CRITIC.

WHAT the fortunes of the "Comedy Opera Company (Limited)" are likely to be, it were unsafe to conjecture. Like all other theatrical speculations, its future is a dubious portent.

Artistically speaking, however, this company have inaugurated their undertaking with success. French opera-bouffe has died the death in England. It withstood the severity of our uncongenial climate for a surprisingly lengthened period. And it may



Miss Julia Warwick as  
The Charity Girl

be said it expires now rather through natural causes, from the diseases of its own system, than through any shocks received at the hands of a virtuous public, or at the pers of a still more immaculate and indignant press.

Does anyone regret the decline amongst us of this prurient and vulgar species of entertainment? I cannot think anyone does, unless it be one or two of those unprincipled creatures who still find in opera-bouffe a pretext for travelling about the country with companies composed more or less of immoral women; companies that are the dread of respectable hotel keepers throughout the kingdom; companies that disgrace the name of art, and



Miss Everard as another  
"Bab Ballad" sketch

are deserving of the careful consideration of local magistrates. Perchance, the managers of such companies may regard with feelings of genuine dissatisfaction, the gradual but hopeless demise of opera-bouffe. It is possible also that Mr. Farnie may feel inclined to drop a votive tear upon the unsanctified grave of that goddess. Be the mourners over the decline of opera-bouffe, however, whom they may, one great and glorious fact must be recorded.

Mr. D'Oyley Carte is not among their number. No, but on the contrary, he now poses as the champion of a nobler and

purser cause. He addresses the public as the prophet of a new operatic religion. He comes to bury his old mistress, not to praise her. He preaches a moral sermon upon the "unwholesome frivolity" of the deceased; has much pleasure in introduc-



St. D'Oyley.

ing to our notice a modest nymph yclept "comedy opera," who, he promises, will never be guilty of the slightest impropriety. Ye gods! 'tis a touching spectacle. D'Oyley Carte re-arisen phoenix-like from the ashes of opera-bouffe, crowned with an aureole of purity, beatified with the very effulgence of exalted virtue!

In my own humble way, I have often ventured to disapprove of opera-bouffe. Therefore I rejoice that a more powerful moralist stands forth, whose condemnation of its vices will have the weight of authority. I do think, looking back over the period of years during which this species of theatrical entertainment has been given leave to flourish on our stage, that never has a plague fallen upon dramatic art in this country more baneful in its effects upon the literature as well as upon the morals of the drama.

On the other hand, musical comedy is a class of production for which there will always be a demand. And the manner in which the *Sorcerer* is received by the audiences who go to the Opera Comique, is a proof that this demand is a healthy one, and unprejudiced by those prurient accessories which of late years



The Sorcerer Sorcing

have been part and parcel of the comical operas presented to the public.

The libretto which Mr. W. S. Gilbert has furnished on this occasion is, like all his work, neat, smart, and occasionally brilliant.

The incidents and personages are conceived in that vein of whimsical humour which has become well nigh habitual with the author. The drollery of the *Sorcerer* consists mainly in the incongruity of the situations and sentiments and the

prosaic garb of everyday life. It is impossible not to be amused at the bland and benevolent old Vicar of Ploverleigh, who being first persuaded that it is his duty to promote in his parishioners by every available method, a hankering after matrimonial bonds, sends straightway off to the firm of "Wells and Co., Family Sorcerers, St Mary Axe," for an infallible love philtre, which will diffuse conjugal yearnings over the entire village. The comical results of Dr. Daly's well-meant potion are intended, I presume, to warn all good folks against dealing in magic and spells. For the dilemmas which the worthy vicar finds himself upon the horns of are almost overwhelming. Nevertheless, he proved himself so diverting to me, that I should be



Mr Richard Temple as  
a "Bab Ballad" sketch.

sorry to see him carry out his threat of retiring into the "congenial gloom of a colonial bishopric." Mr. Barrington's impersonation of Dr. Daly is one of those performances about which it is impossible to speak otherwise than approvingly. It would be easy for a comedian by the slightest over-acting to entirely spoil the character of the sapient soft-mannered vicar. Mr. Barrington, however, plays the part in the quietest and most natural manner. Except that he does and says the absurdest things, Dr. Daly is, in manner, tone, and gesture, a veritable country clergyman, such as one meets over and over again in real life. It is this semblance of reality that gives flavour to the burlesque. There is nothing funnier, even in *Trial by Jury*



Mr Barrington as Dr. Daly.

than the vicar's song, in which he remembers the days of his youth, and repeats the refrain,

"Ah, me, I was a fair young curate then!"

The part of John Wellington Wells, the travelling partner of "Messrs. Wells & Co., Family Sorcerers," is undertaken by a



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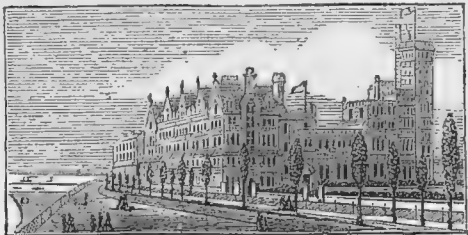
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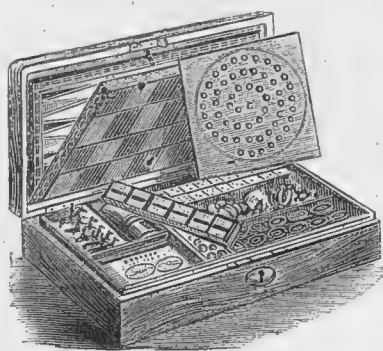
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PIVONNET, a bay colt, 3 years old, by Henry (by  
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Fandango, by Touchstone.

## BLOOD MARES.

BOMBARDE (foaled 1869), by Ventre St. Gris (by  
Gladiator) out of Arcadia, by Arthur Wellesley  
—Pauline, by the Emperor; covered by Gabier,  
and believed to be in foal, due March.

IPHIGENIE (foaled 1867), by Hospodar (by  
Monarque) out of Isabella, by the Baron—  
Regrette, by Gladiator; covered by Ventre St.  
Gris (winner of the French Derby, sire of Peut  
Etre), believed to be in foal, due May.

MARION (foaled 1867), by Marignan (by Womersly)  
out of Aphrodite, by Pedagogue—Debutante, by  
Pyrrhus the First; covered by Consul (winner  
of the French Derby, sire of Nougat and Kilt),  
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CHAMANT, by Mortimer out of Araucaria; the  
winner of the Middle Park and Dewhurst Plate  
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## CHRISTMAS DAY.

**ALDRIDGE'S, St. Martin's-lane.**—  
NOTICE.—Christmas Day falling on Tuesday,  
there will be no Sale on Wednesday, December 26th,  
and this ESTABLISHMENT will be CLOSED from  
Saturday, December 22nd, until Thursday, December  
27th, on which day Horses will be taken in for Sale for  
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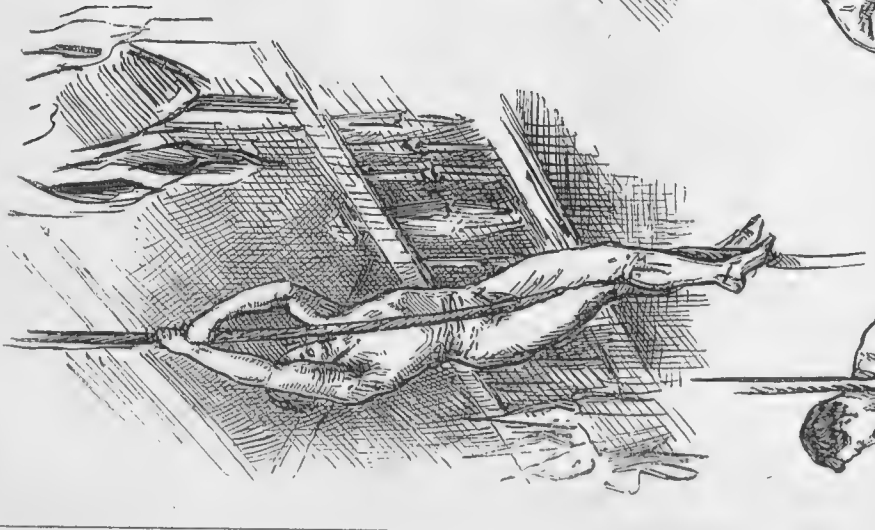
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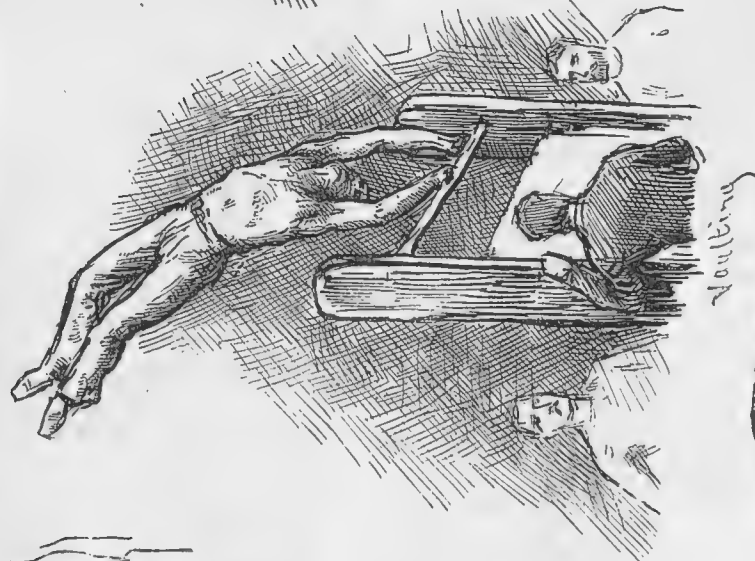


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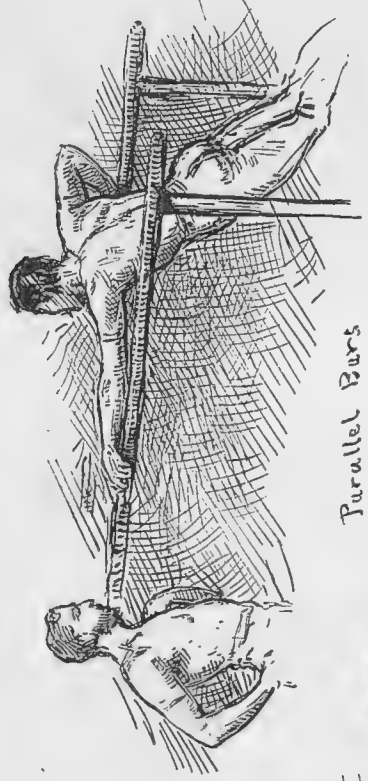
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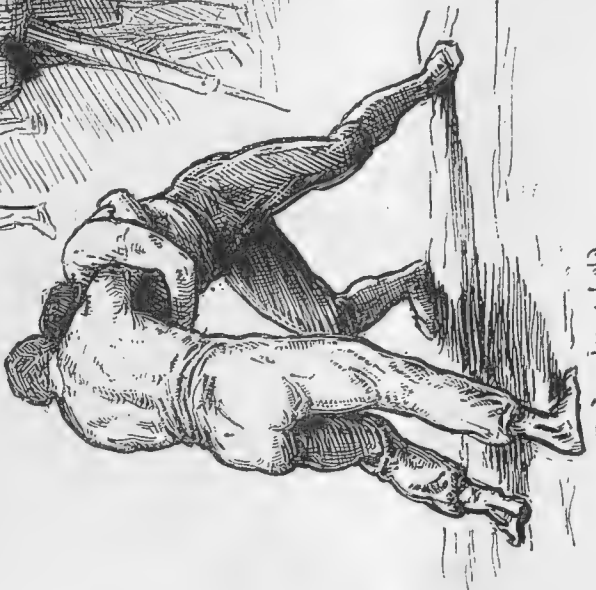


Parallel Bars

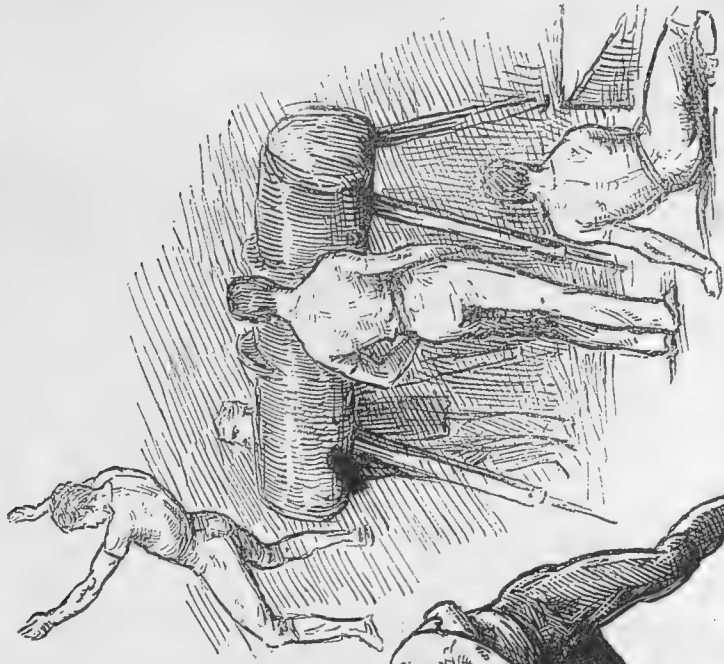


Bound to go

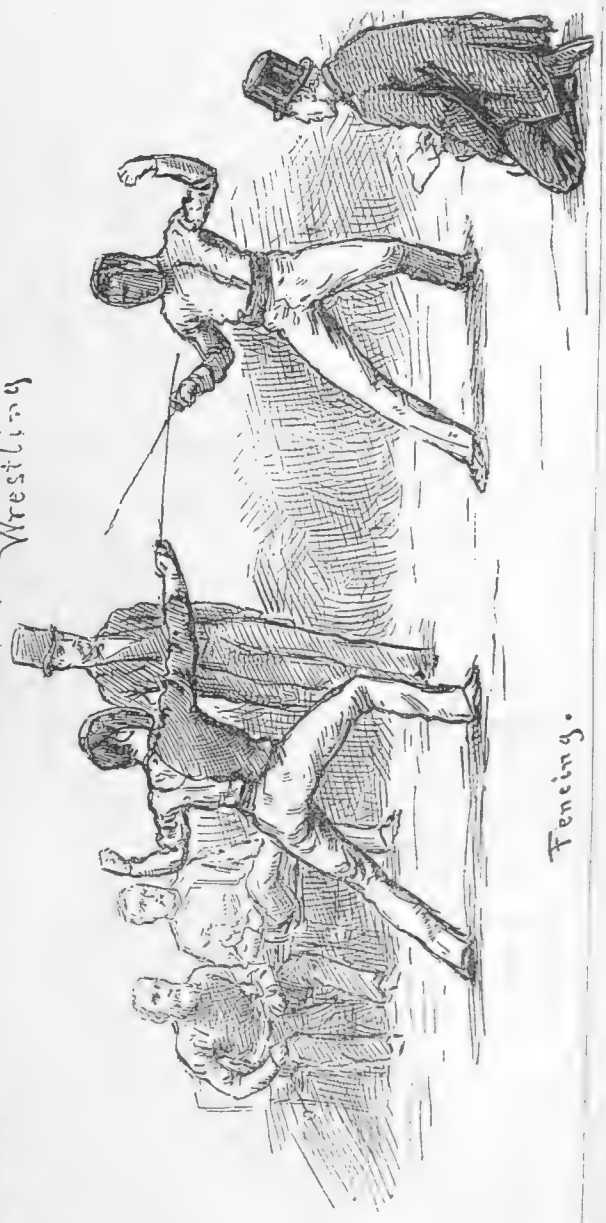
Wrestling



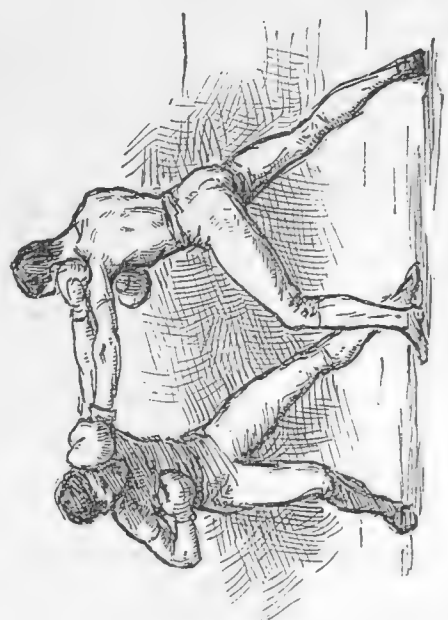
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## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

## DRAMATIC.

A. J. G.—Mr. Joseph George Holman was a popular performer at Covent Garden Theatre at the close of the last century, and he played with John Kemble. His brother was Sir John Holman, Bart., of Warkworth Castle, Banbury. He was educated for the Church; he made his first appearance as Romeo in 1784, at Covent Garden Theatre, and played afterwards with great success in America, where he opened a new theatre at Charlestown with an English company, and being there seized with a fever, which killed many of his performers, went to New York, and died there in the August of 1817. He wrote several plays.

E. B. PAGE.—The story has been told by Mr. Toole in print, and of himself, but precisely the same story was told, many years before Mr. Toole told it, of Farley the actor. You will find Mr. Toole's story in one of the "Era Almanacks."

NELLY.—All the works you name may be procured from W. Reeves, of 185, Fleet-street.

ANDREW E.—Yes, the present Charles Mathews wrote on the subject, as follows:—"Some five and thirty years ago, Charles Kemble, who had long retired and was already ranked among the actors of the past, returned to the stage at the request of Her Majesty, and played a few of his characters at the Theatre Royal, Covent Garden. Here was an opportunity for his detractors! Here was a chance for proving the inferiority of the old school and breaking up the delusion! What was the result? Why, the town was astounded by a Leviathan—a Triton among the minnows—and all the sucking 'Mercutios' and 'Don Felixes' and 'Charles Surfaces' had to hide their diminished heads."

AN OLD PLAYER.—Mrs. Butler (Miss Fanny Kemble) published her journal in 1834 or 1835. She was very far from not recognizing defects in her father as an actor. For instance, in this journal she wrote, "My father possesses certain physical defects—a faintness of colouring in the face and eye, a weakness of voice, and the corresponding intellectual deficiencies; a want of intensity, vigour, and concentrating power."

LITTLE EM'LY.—Mrs. Charles Young was married in 1844, when she was fourteen years of age, in Hobart Town, Australia. She obtained a divorce in May, 1862, in London.

FRED COCKERTON.—Mademoiselle Gautier was a French actress, whose fame culminated at the commencement of the eighteenth century, and a truly extraordinary woman. She was very beautiful in face and graceful in figure, yet possessed tremendous physical strength, being able to roll up a piece of massive plate in her small delicate white hand as if it were a wafer.

L. F.—Miss Kate Santley's first appearance was made in Edinburgh, where she played under the name of Mdlle. Eva Stella. She made her London debut in 1868 at the Queen's Theatre, as Peter in a burlesque on "The Stranger."

D. P. S.—Our contemporary is not in error. The old Master of the Revels was the official licenser of plays. "The way in which the duties of his office have been exercised" from the time of Shakespeare to our own, might form subject matter for a long article which would alternately move your mirth, scorn, and indignation; but it is impossible that we could deal explicitly with that subject in this column of replies to a different

class of queries. The line in *Black-Eyed Susan*, "He played the fiddle like an angel," was originally struck out as profane; and between Charles I. and his Master of the Revels there was once a grave discussion whether such exclamations as Faith! s'Death! and s'Light! ought or ought not to be deleted from a play before it was licensed for public representation. In the first folio of Shakespeare, the name of God! and the words Zounds! and blood! were erased by the licenser wherever he detected them, although he frequently overlooked them being, perhaps, but a careless reader. We give you an experienced actor's—Charles Kemble's—opinion on this subject—"As to the stage becoming licentious," said he, "I have no doubt it is perfectly safe in the hands of the people; for such is the improved state of education, and the moral and religious feeling, that in any theatre I do not think the audience would suffer anything that was licentious to be said upon the stage. I have frequently seen things—for instance, which have been suffered to pass by the licenser, which have not been suffered to pass by the audience; which is a very strong proof that they are perhaps better guardians of their own moral and religious sentiments than anybody can be for them." If this opinion was a just one, then it can certainly be applied with greater force to the audiences of our day.

HISTORICUS HISTORIAN.—The confusion has arisen from the fact that there were two managers of that name, Charles and Alexander Davenant. In the year 1689, and in the reign of William and Mary, the former assigned his share in the incorporated patents of Drury Lane, and the Dorset Gardens Theatre, to the latter, who afterwards held the patent entire and sold it, in 1690, to Christopher Rich, a lawyer, who after shared it with Sir Thomas Skipworth. It was John, a son of this Christopher Rich, to whom we owe the introduction of our Christmas pantomime.

C. H.—Vandenhoff appears to have been an actor of the old Kemble school, classically correct and dignified.

J. B.—Exactly so, as witness, "Lord keep my memory green."

ROBERT MOXON.—The actor of that name now playing is, we are told, the son of Mr. John M. Kemble, and consequently Charles Kemble's grandson.

EXILED.—We know of no such novel.

Replies to E. R. S., John Hanson, E. V., and several other correspondents must this week stand over for want of space.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

ASPEN.—(1.) Real beggars have always abounded in this country, when it has been in a state of war, as various commissions of inquiry have clearly shown, and sham beggars are at such times usually more numerous also. You will find a mass of information on the subject in the supplement to the "Encyclopædia Britannica," under the head "Beggars." (2.) The information is not within our reach.

B. W. S.—We know nothing equal to your verse "on the hills," unless it be other verses on the pills of Morrison, or the verses written by a parish clerk at Marlboro', who, on the occasion of a bishop coming to preach there, wrote something exceedingly like them to be sung in church. We quote a verse:—

"Why do ye mourn, ye little hills?  
Ye little hills, why does yer hop?  
It is because his grace is come,  
His grace the lord bish-hop."

T. C. TUCKER.—The idea that a dog which has been "wormed" never bites when mad, is a very old and very foolish one. Pliny, who quoted from Columella, to the effect that "if a whelp's tail be bitten off, and the string taken away, neither the tail will grow again, nor will the dog ever go mad," also wrote of dogs, "there is a little worm in the tongue, which if taken out when they are very young, they neither go mad nor lose their appetite."

E. BUNBURY.—(1.) You will find an excellent article on the subject of book registration in the current volume of "Casell's Family Magazine." To obtain copyright in America, you must either be a citizen of the United States, or a resident in that country. If you publish in America first you will lose the English copyright. (2.) A copy of every book published in this country must be sent to the British Museum, in London; the Bodleian Library, in Oxford; the Public Library, Cambridge; the Faculty of Advocates, Edinburgh; and Trinity College, Dublin.

H. SWAAB.—By Mangrin, the French Fencing Master, who taught at his establishment in the Haymarket. He had previously played a prominent part in what is called The First French Revolution, when he was a drummer of the Section du Temple. J. G. Millingen, in his "Recollections of Republican France," says, "Mangrin broiled the heart of the beautiful Princess de Lamballe, and ate it *en carbonnade*," and adds, "I heard the ruffian boast of it."

SIGMA.—We have not had time to give the matter attention until now, but, having done so, we find that you are right. The lines on the "Burial of Sir John Moore," commencing "Not a drum was heard," were really written not by Mr. H. Marshal but by the Rev. Charles Wolfe.

THE ILLUSTRATED  
Sporting and Dramatic News.

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1877.

MORALS in abundance have been drawn from the notorious "detective case," now happily lapsing into the condition of a nine days' wonder; but as is usual in discussing the results of such a remarkable trial, its commentators have seized and converted into salient points those features of the case which presented to their eyes the principal warnings to mankind. Among these it would be strange, indeed, if the evils of betting and the general undesirable tendencies of the Turf were not held up to scorn, and denounced as the primary causes of such iniquities as those for which the late detectives are now paying a richly-deserved penalty. There are individuals who rejoice at and gloat over such opportunities of casting odium upon racing and its accessories; Jeremiahs of the Mawworm school, always on the alert to throw up their hands and groan dismally over the wickedness of all mankind save that particular section to which they belong; "goody goody" folks everlastingly bent on making crusades against what certain philanthropists have termed a "canker of civilisation," and ready to attribute to racing influences any crime in the remotest degree traceable to a connection with the Turf. To such as these disclosures of the nature lately made at the Old Bailey form most convenient and ready texts on which to take up their parables, and the mud throwing process commences in earnest, few apologists being found to endeavour to bring these rabid enthusiasts to book, or to discount the ravings of their misguided zeal. These ranters are represented on a higher platform by worthy magistrates, who are apt to refer juvenile delinquencies and the vagaries of apprentices to an acquired taste for racing, and whose pious horror finds vent in homilies preached from the bench to a sympathising audience, which hangs upon the words of the representative of the law, and steadfastly believe that racing is the parent of all kinds of abominations no less than "idleness is the root of all evil" as instilled by copybook practice into the minds of the rising generation. It cannot be brought to the consciences of these well-meaning but obstinate people, that they are mistaking cause for effect in their sweeping denunciations of a branch of sport which has the misfortune to attract questionable characters to its pursuit, and the surroundings of which are full of deceit and fraud. The fact is that the Turf is a convenient rock for the limpets of roguery and chicanery to fasten upon, because it presents a surface adapted for such parasites, and not because there is anything innately vicious or vile in its composition. The history of all crime points to the fact that credulity, next to solid gain, is the chief weapon in the hands of the malefactor, and there can be no doubt that men's minds are powerfully swayed by inducements held out by charlatans such as those who contrived and carried out the famous De Goncourt frauds. The conspirators adopted this mode of securing their ends, because

it was the easiest according to their lights, and had it suited their purposes better they would have had resort to any other system of speculation than that afforded by the betting ring. Transactions on the Stock Exchange, on mercantile operations, or any other "legitimate" means of securing the credulous Frenchwoman's wealth, would have afforded the conspirators as fine a field for their operations as the Turf; but the latter happened to afford unusual facilities for playing the old "confidence trick" over again, and recourse was accordingly had to it, and things were so cleverly put in train that the desired ends were accomplished, and the booty secured. But, be it noted, this gigantic swindle was merely connected nominally with the Turf, not one farthing of the profits going into the pockets of persons in any way connected with the actual business of racing, but the robbery was committed merely on pretence by its instigators of their ability to secure for their hapless dupe immense profits on the sums from time to time advanced at their solicitations. The money might have been ostensibly employed in jobbings on 'Change, in amateur underwriting at Lloyds, or in any of those precarious ventures which commend themselves to the minds of the idle and credulous for the chances they afford of realising large profits at little trouble to speculators. Not a shilling of the thousands wrung from Madame de Goncourt found its way into the pockets of the betting ring; the reputation of no owner of horses was compromised by its means; no "instrument of gambling" was brought upon the scene to assist in its realisation; racing was used merely as the means to an end, and the current of its annual course flowed on undisturbed by the operations of scoundrels who used it merely as a stalking horse to circumvent their prey. Madame de Goncourt was only the most notable of a long array of victims at the shrine of ingenious craft, and the representative of a large class which have fallen into the traps laid for them with such consummate skill, and so temptingly baited, that the weakness of poor human nature could not prevail against them. "Turf frauds" they may have been designated, but, save in point of mere nominal association, they were not connected with racing in the slightest degree, and their perpetrators, though they might occasionally have made the betting ring their resort, were *chevaliers d'industrie* of the purest water, capable of turning their hands to any scheme for the spoliation of mankind, but probably far too knowing to think of attaining their ends by backing horses. Upon a smaller scale similar robberies on pretence of making fortunes on the Turf have been perpetrated, and for aught we know may still be in course of concoction and organisation at the present hour; but the victims suffer in silence, and make no attempt to proclaim their folly to the world.

It is not so very long since that the columns of the sporting press teemed with advertisements, setting forth the glories of racing El Dorados, and holding out hopes of a speedy realisation of "opulent gains." Happily, the strong hand of repression has curbed the license of this unprincipled class; but nevertheless the idea continues to prevail, and not unnaturally, among those who casually come across such specious announcements in journals devoted mainly to racing, that the Turf is responsible for the palpable deception involved in such flaming advertisements as led Madame de Goncourt to venture a fortune in those doubtful securities. We repeat that these are mere fungoid growths on the trunk of a noble tree, and though the bark exhibits flaws and excoriations enough, such "Turf frauds" as we have endeavoured to show the nature of never have been, and never will be, anything more than mere excrescences, albeit they give enemies of racing occasion to blaspheme, and furnish a formidable argumentative weapon in the hands of the "unco guid" and self-elected saints. We would not be supposed to be painting in too glowing colours the morals of the Turf as it exists in our day, nor are we blind to the many and ever-recurring shortcomings which mark the career of certain of its less respectable followers; but we would not have it painted blacker than it is, and therefore hasten to repudiate its more than nominal connection with the crying scandals recently brought to light in the great "detective case." Every well-wisher of our best loved sport must be anxious to see it cut adrift from such base associations, and the surest means to this end is for the sporting press to keep its hands clean from contact with scheming scoundrels, who would fain use it to make known their "infallible systems" and such like quack prescriptions against a losing account. Such reprobates, while they benefit nobody brought in contact with them, only drag a noble sport through the mire, and deserve as assiduous a stamping out as the cattle plague or the Colorado beetle.

SINCE the recent order of the metropolitan police for the capture of all dogs astray or unattended within a radius of 12 miles, these animals have been brought to the home in Battersea-park, road in greatly increased numbers, viz., at the rate of 250 per day. Of these a larger proportion have been claimed than under ordinary circumstances. We are requested to state that persons having lost dogs need not be deterred from applying in search of them at this home should their dog-licenses be mislaid, as the manager is not instructed to require the production of licenses on the part of applicants, or to furnish any reports to the Commissioners of Excise.

At the German Gymnastic Society, the members of the Turnverein in the St. Pancras-road brought their annual competition to a close in the presence of a crowded audience, with the following results:—Light Weight Wrestling (under 10½st); Final Bout: F. W. Fry, G.G.S., beat A. S. Tyler, Birmingham A.C. Middle Weight Wrestling (under 12st): Final Bout: J. Moffatt, G.G.S., beat Maclashan by a twist off the chest and a back heel. Heavy Weight Wrestling (over 12st): A. Allright, G.G.S., beat W. Y. Winthrop, Camb. U.A.C., each thrown with the inside click. Vaulting at Horizontal Bar (Handicap): C. A. Harman, G.G.S. (limit), 1—6ft 6in; P. Ansell, G.G.S. (penalised 4in), 2—6ft 8½in; C. F. Robinson (penalised 6in), 3—6ft 9½in. Gymnastics, consisting of parallel bars, horse, and horizontal bar: O. Knoke, G.G.S., 1—94 marks; A. Barnard, Orion G.C., 2—89 marks; F. Klein, G.G.S., and T. Glasen, G.G.S., tied at 88 marks for third. Tug of War, teams of six, gross weight not to exceed 70 stone per team—final tug: J. S. Hoare's team, G.G.S.F.C., beat Ravensbourne C. and A.C. team.

CHAPPUIS' DAYLIGHT REFLECTORS FOR MILLS.—Factory, 96, Fleet-street.—[Advrt.]



## THE PHANTOM UMBRELLA; OR, HOW I FOUND MY WIFE.

BY MRS. JOSEPH ROGERS.

### CHAPTER I.

AT the time this story begins, I was twenty-two, the favourite of my mother, and beloved by my father as his youngest son, and he made use of me, as such. I was not a model, but I managed to keep pretty square with my people at home, by being in before twelve, taking my sisters to balls, theatres, and of course, to church. In fact, I was rather regarded as a joke by my sisters, who called me their "walking stick;" that I did not mind, but one duty which my father always imposed upon me, I did mind, and that was Umbrella Carrier! And such a gingham!

Now just put yourself in my place. Fancy turning out on a bright morning, in a suit of Poole's, in patent leather boots, light kid gloves, rather fancying myself, indeed, and being made to bear this oversized, bulging water carrier; for the rain, instead of dripping off, came through. However, with all this, my father invariably insisted on its being my companion. In the summer my family resided a short distance from town, my father and I going backwards and forwards every day, the "gingham" completing the trio. How often did I leave it in the train, or outside the omnibus, in the hope that someone might take a fancy to it, but it always turned up again. It haunted me by night, so I gave it the name of The Phantom Umbrella!

One bright Sunday morning, just the day for a stroll, after doing walking stick to my sisters to and from church, they and I were about to start, when my father made his appearance, with the blight of all my hopes—the Umbrella. I, however, was determined to get rid of it. So, after seeing them home, off I went, the gingham my sole companion. After wandering about a mile, I found I was nearing houses, and saw people coming my way. I made a dart at some bushes, growing thickly over a hedge, and thrust the author of all my annoyance into them, feeling, what I can imagine a fellow would feel, who has been constantly dunned for a debt, and is at last, by an unexpected stroke of good luck, able to settle with his creditor. What a sigh of relief escaped me! Once or twice as the passers by came and went, I found myself dangling my hands behind me as if to conceal something, as was my wont when hiding, what was now, only the Phantom Umbrella. The next morning I stood at my window, not confronted by the warm sun, but with the rain pelted against the window panes, as if demanding of me,—What have you done with the Umbrella? It rained heaven's hard. Out came my father to the man and said—"Bring the Umbrella!"—"Can't find it sir"—my father grew angry, but I would not let the good old servant get into trouble through me, so said, "I left it behind me yesterday!"—"Well, my boy," said he, "you must not forget to find it to-morrow, not that there's fear of anyone taking a fancy to the article, but it's an old friend, and besides, Fred," said the old gentleman, with a mischievous twinkle in his eye, "I know you've a particular love for it." Taking advantage of the joke, I ventured the remark, "I wish it may never turn up," but seeing he was vexed, I made up my mind to go in search of the missing one the following morning.

That night I dreamt of it. The Umbrella had taken root, and grown an immense height, and had thrown out myriads of branches of baby umbrellas. Presently a sort of ballet took place, and Phantom Umbrellas came out and danced, and then turned into angel-like forms, and made groups, and formed and reformed, and I awoke, as it were, at the noise of rain—and all vanished.

It was a bright morning. I hastened over my toilet and started out on my voyage of discovery. On reaching the well-remembered spot, I found it to be a garden, surrounding a pretty cottage. I looked through the hedge among the bushes—the gingham was gone! But, stooping down in the act of planting something, I beheld a young girl. I caught sight of the tiniest shell-like ear, and such a wealth of rich nut-brown hair—what had I not found in place of the detested gingham?—For a moment I felt riveted to the spot. She had evidently finished her work, when some movement of mine attracted her attention. A look of surprise spread over her face. She was just above the average height, with large eyes, not round, black lashes and brows, bright brown hair—and such a complexion!

The war of roses in her face,  
Dear Love would laugh to see.

"Pray pardon me," I said, raising my hat—"I had dropped something in your garden, and in seeking it, found instead, the loveliest woman in the world; this must be my apology for so rudely gazing at you—pray forgive me," and again raising my hat, I hurried away. Regarding with far different feelings, the now no longer detested gingham. And yet I mused why should I be glad? She did say "I forgive you"—and entered the house, without turning her head.

A garden,—a girl—and a shabby old Gingham Umbrella! The wheel of time and fortune, kept turning round. My sisters, who loved me very dearly, especially Kate, thought me changed—so out of spirits—I was so quiet. Quietness is a dangerous symptom in a man, especially when the cause is a woman, as it was in my case.

How often I contemplated reconnoitring the spot where I had last seen the Ghostly Gingham, not in the hope of finding it—but to see her once more.

I was sitting alone in the study, enjoying a weed, when in bounded Kate, in the highest spirits, with "Fred, we're going to the theatre to night, to see Mdle. Mavrago. She is a marvel of beauty and talent—quite young—and so good!"

"Bother the theatre," I said. "What do I care about your marvels of beauty and virtue on the stage?—But never mind Kate—I'll take you."

I took the girls to the theatre. The house was crowded. Kate, thinking to do me a good turn, invited Miss De Lacey to join us. My sister had made that young lady's acquaintance at a finishing school, and since then she had often come to our house. I had danced with her—she was good looking and very gushing—she had a pretty hand, which I had more than once perhaps carried to my lips, and she had not snatched it away. I had, however, not felt the emotion which an old brown gingham umbrella had caused me. You who have sisters, will understand that to dance twice with the same girl in one evening is to be engaged, and if she has plenty of money, as in this case, with one's respected parents it's a settled thing.

The curtain rose, and, to my utter astonishment, who should sit alone on the stage, with her handsome head resting on her hand, but my idol of the Phantom Umbrella!

I appeared so amazed, that my sister's friend looked at me in half surprise. At this moment the house gave the star an overwhelming welcome, which my hands refused to aid. I could have cursed the men whose eyes were fixed on her in admiration. I hated all women, save one. When my friends spoke, I knew not what I answered. I only knew that SHE was there, before me, in the glare of the stage lights. I cannot tell you the name of the play, but the curtain fell, and immense applause proved her success. Again and again a perfect storm arose, but she answered not to the call, and I was glad that the flower of that garden did not smile her thanks to men from whom she had elicited such admiration. How I gloated over their looks of disappointment as they turned to

leave the house! Kate declared that Fred was quite gone off his head about the little actress. "True," thought I, "how will this end?"

"Hollo, old fellow," said some one, with rather a heartysmack on the shoulder.

I turned and saw Jeffery Longdale, a dear old chum of mine.

"When did you return?" I inquired.

"Last week—seedy, old fellow—seedy. India would kill anyone. I've a year's sick leave, and I mean to enjoy myself among my friends."

"Well, Jeff, I'm glad to see you, so begin at our house to-morrow. Half-past seven dinner—don't disappoint us, old fellow—good-bye.—Come, girls, the carriage is up." But what had come over Kate? It was my turn to think her—in spirits.

On our return home my mother was sitting up for us. She loved a good play; and the girls were full of all sorts of praises of "the new actress." Miss De Lacey thought she might have thrown a little more spirit into the part of vanquishing her old lover, that her hair was a shade too bright, and so on. I made excuse to smoke, bade them good night, went to my room—but not to smoke. No; to think, to write, to tear up the letter, to write, and re-write, and again to smoke. After deciding upon my mode of action, hearing the clock strike three, and finding I had nibbled the best part of a cold cigar away, (the rain was beating against my window panes with a sound like the sobbing of the deserted old Gingham, crying "come and fetch me home,") I flung myself upon the bed and fell asleep, and was awakened by a rapping at the door,—Your hot water, sir, and eight o'clock.

I found myself just as I had left the house for the theatre, in evening dress and my watch stopped.

This was Saturday. I was soon out of my clothes and into my bath; after which I felt spirit and pluck enough to fight Mephistophiles if he had come in my way. Off I started, hope and fear holding a severe conflict in my breast, but the former proved victorious, and in a few moments I stood on the doorstep, and pulling the wire allotted to visitors, inquired if Mdle. Mavrago was at home.

"Yes, sir, but engaged," said the servant.

At this moment a rather severe-looking but pleasant spoken lady made her appearance. Speaking with a French accent she said:

"Mademoiselle is never at home to strangers, Monsieur; her music-master leaves in half an hour, when she receives her friends up to four o'clock."

"I am a friend," I replied, handing my card, "and have come a long distance to see her."

The elderly lady had certainly by this time taken stock of me, and evidently the impression was a favourable one, for she invited me to take a seat in the drawing-room.

The handle of the door turned, and she I had come in search of entered with rather a low bow. I felt very awkward, and began stammering out an apology, when she stopped me by saying:

"You are the gentleman, I believe, who lost something in my garden,—or, have you come to make inquiry after it?"

I could not resist this opening; and although her manner was rather chilling, it fired me with new courage.

"Madame," I said, "forgive me; I have come to inquire after, not what I lost in the garden, but what I found there, yourself; do hear me," for she seemed about to turn away. "I have come to throw myself at your feet. I love you; from the first moment I beheld you I loved you. Oh! do hear me; If you love another, forgive my boldness, and send me forth vanquished, as coldly as you played your part the other night."

I thought I saw a slight shudder, her face flushed, and she said:

"Then you know I am an actress, and you thought you might intrude on my privacy here," and, drawing herself up, she added: "Sir, I do not receive such visitors."

"Yes," I replied, "I knew you were an actress. I sat in the stalls the other night with feelings of admiration of your talent, and adoration of your beauty and grace. I came to-day to learn from you, if you will tell me, your true position, and to offer you my hand."

During the whole of the time I was speaking she did not utter one word, but stood looking at me with eyes of astonishment. A lady visitor was announced, I rose to depart; she extended to me her hand, and with a smile that fell on my soul like the dew of Heaven on the flower of the desert, said:

"To-morrow afternoon, at half-past four."

I was so overcome, that on leaving the room I almost stumbled over the grim looking person who was sitting by the door. I recovered, and sauntered home, feeling supremely happy in the thought that I should soon again see her. Next morning my father said to me, in rather a sharp tone:

"Fred, let us be off. I have a full day, must work late." and then to my relief, added: "but you can get home early. I think your sisters are going out and will want you to join them."

"Perhaps," thought I. Everything went on well. At three o'clock I inquired of my father if I was wanted?

"No, my boy," continuing with a meaning wink, "You're a knowing dog, Fred; got your eye on Miss De Lacey, eh? not a bad choice for a young fellow!"

This I felt sure I should disappoint him in, but I did not choose too soon to let him know my sentiments on the subject. At four o'clock behold me once again at the cottage. I heard a sweet voice singing an air from one of the operas, the door was opened, this time by the elderly lady, a moment more and I was in the room, and she was there! She advanced to meet me, saying, "you see I begin at once to treat you as a friend," adding, "I will be frank with you; to me your homage has been like a dream—it is so unlike that which I have been accustomed to. And have you come to see me to day in yesterday's frame of mind?"

"Oh yes! I exclaimed, and then added beseechingly, "Are we to be—friends? Trust me, only trust me, and I swear never to—"

"I will," she replied, with a smile; "and now," she said, "how long can you stay? I do not play to-night."

I replied, "until you send me away."

We sat down by the window, and she gave me this short sketch of her life:—"My name is Stella Mavrago, I am an orphan, my father, the Marquis de Mavrago, married my mother, an English lady, of good family, but poor, against the wish of his father, a stern old French noble. My mother was delicate in health, and was much broken down by the unkindness her husband received, being the only son, at the hands of his father, who never quite forgave him for marrying her. She died in my infancy, while my father was abroad. I was placed with an old nurse, who had lived in the family many years, my father being obliged to rejoin his regiment. He never returned, but died in a strange land."

"A sister of my father's, who lived outside Paris, came for me on the death of my second mother, who bequeathed me her small estate; she consigned me to the charge of a good woman, a literary friend, who looked after my education. I was then getting a girl old enough to be anxious about myself. Two years had elapsed, when one day she said, 'my child, I have given you a good education, and your music master, Monsieur Darton, tells me you can, with extra work, get a good dramatic engagement in England. You are a good and clever

girl, but poor; tell me, it is a life of risk, will you try it? I will chaperone you.' I felt strong, my income had been much reduced by my studies, so we came to the this, my own country, my mother's resting place, and found this cottage. I had, through friends, an engagement already, which paid me well. Here I am, and now you know my history, I must part, it is nine o'clock; my old friend is now at the door, we meet again to-morrow."

I pressed her hand, and left the house, feeling I could scarcely exist until the time arrived for my visit on the following day. I had forgotten all about my dear old friend Jeff dining with us that night, however I found him with the girls in the drawing-room, he singing, and appropriately enough I thought, the second verse of "Ever of thee."

Kate accosted me with, "you're a nice boy, after inviting a friend to dine, to be out when he comes."

"Oh, Jeff, old fellow," I broke in, "I know you will forgive me when I tell you the reason; I couldn't help it."

"Well, let's have the reason," exclaimed Miss De Lacey.

"No, not for ladies!"

"A case of our sex," rejoined my demure sister Polly.

I got out of it by saying, "I say, Jeff, are you coming out at the Opera next season?"

More singing and conversation brought the pleasant evening to a close, previously to which, Jeff. asked me to look him up the following day, as "he had a few words for my ear."

To be continued.

## WEEKLY MUSICAL REVIEW.

DUFF AND STEWART, 147, Oxford-street, W.—"Watching for Pa," price, 4s., is the title of a "Juvenile Quadrille," founded on popular Christy Minstrel melodies. The tunes are pretty, and are so well arranged and so simply harmonised that the most juvenile pianists will find them easy. The title-page, representing three little children "watching for pa," is well-drawn and coloured, and the quadrille will be an acceptable present to our young folks.

CUNNINGHAM, BOOSEY, AND CO., 296, Oxford-street, W.—"Glory," price, 4s., song, written by Rita, composed by C. Zoeller. The words are full of life and spirit, the music is appropriately vigorous.

J. B. LAFLEUR AND SON, 15, Green-street, Leicester-square. "Bless the Lord, oh my soul," price, 1s., is an anthem, to part of the 103rd Psalm, music by C. Zoeller, who has succeeded in producing a melodious and well harmonised composition, which may be warmly recommended. The accompaniment is written for organ or harmonium, and the full orchestral score, which is cleverly and sympathetically arranged, may be had for 3s. 8d. This Anthem has been performed recently at Westminster Abbey.

WOOD AND CO., 3, Guilford-street, Russell-square.—"Beloved one, we shall meet in Heaven," price, 3s., words by D. M., music by K. Schröder. The words are of average quality, the music is suitable for a tenor or baritone voice.—"Sing me to rest," price, 3s., song, words by Meta, music by Louisa Gray. The moribund young lady who asks her mother to sing her last "lullaby," should be more particular about grammar. Why does she accent the noun "perfume," as if it were the verb "perfume." Why does she say—

"Can it be true  
That soon I am (sic) leaving this bright world," &c.

And why does she use the second personal pronoun sometimes in the singular number, sometimes in the plural? The music is of the simple and flowing kind which is admired by many amateurs.—"The Comet Galop," price, 3s., by C. Michau, is a "capital galop. The "Rosa et Rosita," polka Espagnole, price 3s. as solo, 4s. as duet, is composed by H. Werner, and deserves recommendation as a fresh, original, and piquant composition.

### MDLLE. LISA PERDI.

MISS Purdy, whose recent successes under her Italianised name as "Mdle. Lisa Perdi," have been recorded in our pages, is an English artist, who is likely to do credit to her native country. At an early age she commenced her musical studies under Mr. John Foster, and two years later made her first appearance in public, May 3rd, 1871, at a concert given in her name at the Hanover Square Rooms. The youthful aspirant was warmly received by the public and the musical profession, and gained a desirable position as a first contralto in oratorios and concerts. Her master in the Italian school of vocalisation was (until his lamented death) Signor Ciabatta, and after his decease, she had the great advantage of receiving some instruction from Madame Puzzi, the most accomplished teacher of Italian vocalisation now to be found. Subsequently, with a view to an operatic career, she proceeded to Milan, where she studied singing under Signor Lamperti, and acting under Signor Ronconi. On her return to London, last summer, she rapidly became a prominent attraction at the fashionable concerts and private soirées of the season, and was engaged by Mr. Mapleson, for the provincial tour of Her Majesty's Opera Company. Her first appearance on the lyric stage, was in the character of Siebel, in Gounod's *Faust*, at Dublin; and the success which she made on that occasion was repeated at Cork a few days later. The Irish journals gave flattering praise and encouragement to the young *débutante*, and their judgment was confirmed by the London journals which noticed her *début* at Her Majesty's Opera, London, on the 19th November, 1877, as Siebel. In this character she not only proved herself to be a finished vocalist, but a graceful and intelligent actress, and the good opinion based on her impersonation of Siebel, was more than confirmed by her subsequent success as Maddalena, in *Rigoletto*. Her singing and acting in the last act of that opera, in which alone Maddalena appears, were so artistic and attractive that it was selected as one of the special features of the "combined" performance given for the benefit of Mr. Mapleson at the end of the season; and that gentleman has wisely secured Mdle. Perdi for the principal contralto part in Flotow's opera, *L'Omra*, which, in an English dress, is intended to follow *Le Châlet*, at Her Majesty's Theatre. Mdle. Perdi's voice is a mezzo-soprano, of bright and penetrating quality, with command of contralto and soprano notes. Her style does credit to the eminent instructors by whom her studies have been directed. Her natural earnestness and vivacity, with her bright expressive features and graceful deportment, lend charm to her acting; and although she is but a novice on the lyric stage, there seems every reason to believe that with a little more stage practice she will be enabled to take an enviable place among our lyric artists.

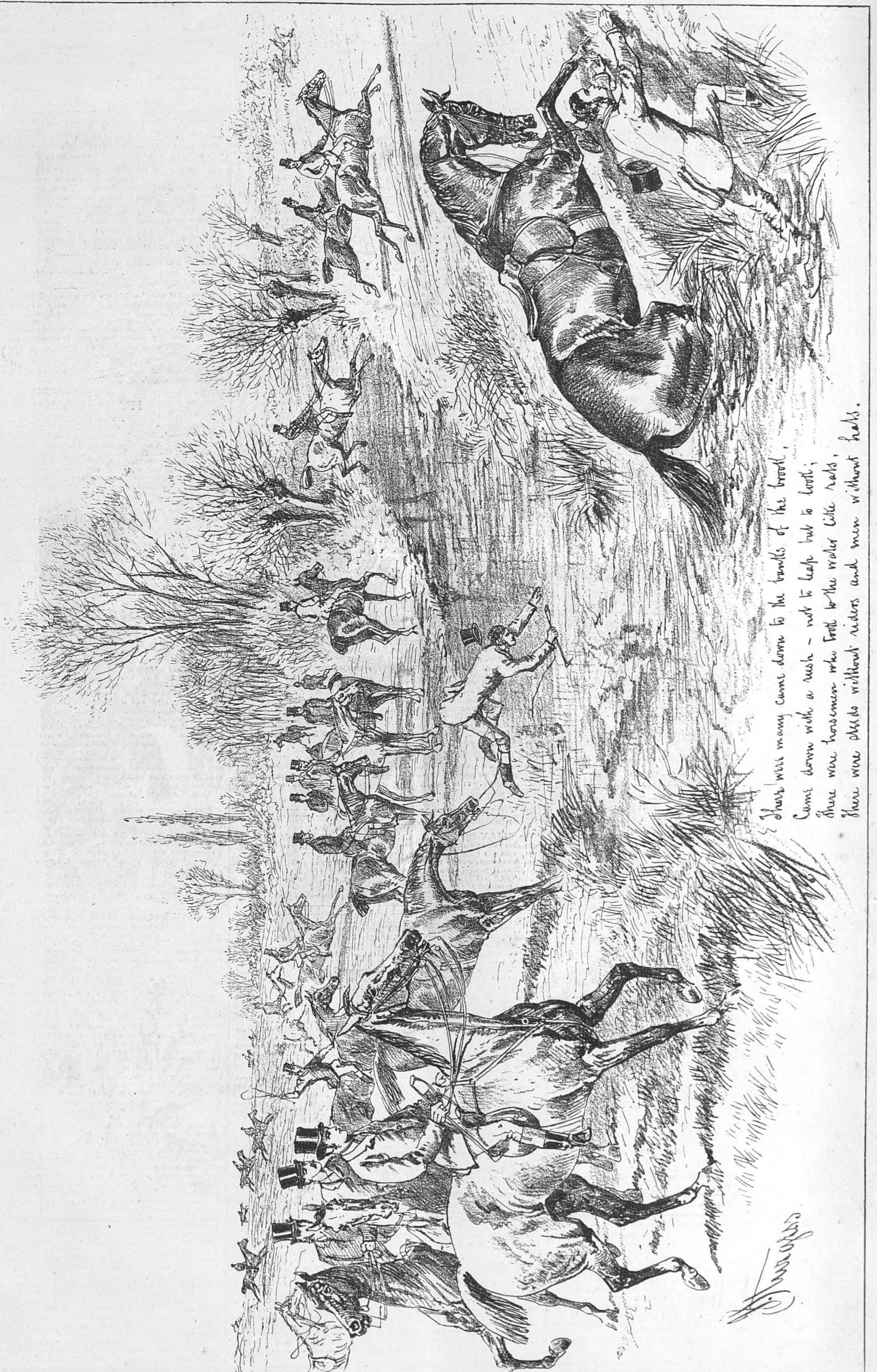
By the will of the late J. Durham, A.R.A., F.S.A., Mr. Raemaekers, of Pimlico, London, has been left to complete his unfinished works. Mr. Raemaekers, who, for the last twenty years, has been the friend and associate of the late great sculptor, has received this token of the high esteem in which he held his artistic capabilities. Mr. Raemaekers will be recognised by his works exhibited in the Royal Academy; amongst which were the portrait busts of the Earl and Countess of Clancarty, Hon. Mrs. French, Dr. Lockhart Clarke, F.R.S., and the late Marquis of Bristol.





A CHRISTMAS SALUTE.





There were many come down to the banks of the brook,  
 Came down with a rush - not to leap but to loath;  
 There were horsemen who took to the water like rats,  
 There were steeds without riders and men without hats.



CHES.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

G. D. WRAY. -The very pretty Problem No. 163, by J. W. Abbott, is not a misprint. It is much prettier than you imagine, and cannot be solved in the manner you propose, or in less than three moves, as specified. P to Q B 4 is not mate in one, or even in three moves. In reply thereto, Black simply takes the P in passing. Your supposition as to the author's intended solution is also incorrect, for it—

- 1. P to K B 4 (dis ch) Kt to K 5
- 2. Q to Q R sq then Kt to Q B 3

and there is no mate next move.  
S. E.—Your games received, and thankfully accepted.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 166.

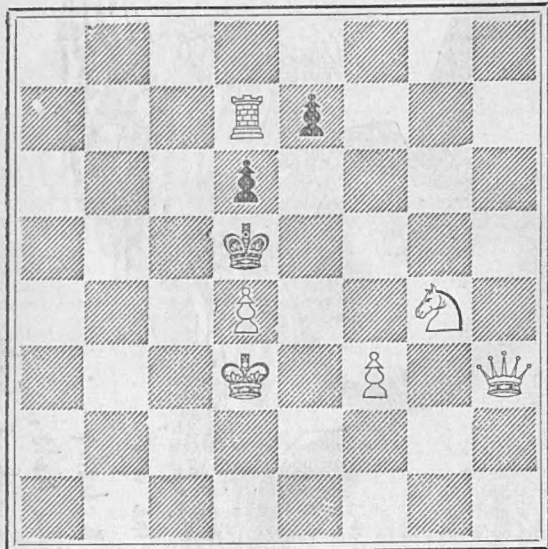
- WHITE. BLACK.
- 1. B to K B 5 Anything.
- 2. Mate.

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM No. 167.

- WHITE. BLACK.
- 1. Q to K Kt 7 Q to Q Kt 2, or anything.
- 2. Kt to K B 3 Q or B takes Kt.
- 3. Q Mates.

PROBLEM No. 169.

By R. F. DUFF.  
BLACK.



White to play and mate in three moves.

The following lively game is one of eight which Mr. Blackburn lately conducted simultaneously, and without seeing board or men, against eight strong players at Bradford—

[French opening.]

- |                            |                    |                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| WHITE.<br>(Mr. Blackburn.) | BLACK.<br>(Mr. W.) | WHITE.<br>(Mr. Blackburn.) | BLACK.<br>(Mr. W.) |
| 1. P to K 4                | P to K 3           | 14. Kt to K 4              | K to R 2           |
| 2. P to Q 4                | P to Q 4           | 15. Kt takes R P (c)       | P takes Kt         |
| 3. Kt to Q B 3             | B to K 5           | 16. Q to R 5               | Kt to Q 2 (d)      |
| 4. P takes P (a)           | P takes P          | 17. B takes R P            | Kt to Kt sq        |
| 5. Kt to B 3               | B to K 5           | 18. R to B 3               | R to B 2           |
| 6. B to Q 3                | Q to B 3           | 19. R to Kt 3 (ch)         | Q takes R          |
| 7. Castles                 | B takes Q Kt       | 20. P takes Q              | Kt to Q sq         |
| 8. P takes B               | Kt to K R 3        | 21. K to B 2 (e)           | Kt to K B sq       |
| 9. B to K 2                | P to K R 3         | 22. R to K R sq            | Kt to R 2          |
| 10. Kt to K 5              | B takes B          | 23. R to R 4               | R to Q 2           |
| 11. Q takes B              | Castles K R        | 24. R to Kt 4 (ch)         | Kt to Kt 4         |
| 12. P to K B 4 (b)         | Q to Q 3           | 25. B takes Kt and wins.   |                    |
| 13. P to B 5               | P to B 3           |                            |                    |

- (a) B to Q 3 is the accredited mode of continuing this opening.
- (b) White has now a superior position, nor do we see any way in which Black can develop his game or meet successfully the impending attack.
- (c) This sacrifice gives a very different aspect to the game, and is more-over perfectly sound.
- (d) Kt to Kt sq looks as though it would enable Black to escape from his difficulties, but it would have been utterly unavailing, as White could then have forced the game thus—

- |                         |            |
|-------------------------|------------|
| WHITE.                  | BLACK.     |
| 17. B takes R P         | Kt takes B |
| 18. Q to Kt 6 (ch)      | K to R sq  |
| 19. R to B 3, and wins. |            |

- (e) White had here several ways of winning, and he selected the shortest and prettiest. Mr. Blackburn certainly excels all other blindfold players in the production of interesting positions and lively games.

An interesting game lately played at Purcell's—

[Remove White's Q Kt.]

- |                         |                          |                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| WHITE.<br>(Mr. Potter.) | BLACK.<br>(Mr. Leonard.) | WHITE.<br>(Mr. Potter.) | BLACK.<br>(Mr. Leonard.) |
| 1. P to K B 4           | P to K B 4               | 20. Q takes Kt P        | K to Kt sq               |
| 2. P to Q Kt 3          | Kt to Q B 3              | 21. P takes P           | B takes P                |
| 3. B to Kt 2            | P to Q 3                 | 22. P to K 4            | B to B 2                 |
| 4. P to K 3             | P to K 4                 | 23. P to B 4            | R to K sq                |
| 5. Q to K 2             | Kt to B 3 (a)            | 24. R to R 8            | Q to Q 3                 |
| 6. Castles              | P to K 5                 | 25. P to K 5            | Q to Q 8 (ch)            |
| 7. Kt to R 3            | P to K R 3               | 26. Q to B sq           | Q takes Q                |
| 8. Kt to B 2            | P to Q R 3               | 27. K takes Q (c)       | B to K 2                 |
| 9. P to K R 3           | P to K R 4               | 28. K to R 7            | B to Kt 4 (ch)           |
| 10. P to Kt 3           | B to K 3                 | 29. K to Kt sq          | B to R 3                 |
| 11. P to Kt 2           | P to Q 4                 | 30. P to K 6            | Kt to Kt sq              |
| 12. K to Kt sq (b)      | Q to Q 3                 | 31. R to R 8            | Kt to K 2                |
| 13. P to Q 3            | Q to K 2                 | 32. P to B 6            | Kt to B 4                |
| 14. P to Kt 4           | P takes P                | 33. B to K R 3          | P takes P                |
| 15. R P takes P         | R takes R                | 34. B takes Kt          | B to Kt 2                |
| 16. R takes R           | K takes P                | 35. R takes B           | R takes R                |
| 17. Kt takes Kt         | P takes Kt               | 36. P to K 7            | B to R 3 (d)             |
| 18. P takes P           | Castles.                 | 37. B to Kt 6           | Resigns.                 |
| 19. P to B 5            | B to B 2                 |                         |                          |

- (a) Had he taken the P, White would have castled at once.
- (b) Evidently played so as to be able to take Kt with B at fit opportunity, without then losing time by having to move the King.
- (c) From this point to the end, White plays with great judgment, and every move he makes is worthy of study.
- (d) His best course was R to K sq, and then the game would probably have proceeded thus—

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| WHITE.   | BLACK.        |
| 36. B to Q R 3   | P to B 4 best |
| 37. B takes P  | K to B 2      |
| 38. P to B 4   | R to Kt 3     |
| 39. B to R 3, and then White marches his King to the assistance of his P at K 7, and so wins easily. |               |

DECEMBER the 20th, will be the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the opening of the City of London Chess Club. The happy event will be celebrated by an entertainment on that day. Members and others desirous of being present, should apply at once for tickets, to the Hon. Sec., Moullet's Hotel, Newgate-street.

PERFECTION.—MRS. S. A. ALLEN'S WORLD'S HAIR RESTORER never fails to restore Grey Hair to its youthful colour, imparting to it new life, growth, and lustrous beauty. Its action is certain and thorough, quickly banishing greyness. It is not a dye. It ever proves itself the natural strengthener of the Hair. Its superiority and excellence are established throughout the world. Sold by all Chemists and Perfumers. MRS. S. A. ALLEN has for over 40 years manufactured these two preparations. They are the standard articles for the Hair. They should never be used together, nor Oil nor Pomade with either. MRS. S. A. ALLEN'S ZYLO-BALSAMUM, a simple Tonic and Hair Dressing of extraordinary merit for the young. Premature loss of the Hair, so common, is prevented. Prompt relief in thousands of cases has been afforded where Hair has been coming out in handfuls. It cleanses the hair and scalp and removes Dandruff. Sold by all Chemist and Perfumers.—[Advrt.]

PRINCIPAL RACES PAST.

BROMLEY MEETING.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11.

The MAIDEN HURDLE STAKES of 5 sovs each, with 50 added; one mile and a half, over six flights; was won by Mr. Carnegie's br f Catinka, by Paul Jones—Ding-Dong, 4 yrs, 1st 13lb (Duffin), beating (by a length) Rabbi, 4 yrs, 1st 13lb; and Extinguisher, 3 yrs, 1st 9lb; and eight others. 3 to 1 agst Catinka, 100 to 30 agst Extinguisher, and 5 to 1 each agst Lord Lincoln and Chimere. Bad third.

HUNTERS' STEEPLECHASE PLATE of 50 sovs; about two miles and a half; was won by Mr. Mervyn's ch g Gamut, by Orpheus—Lady Neville, aged, 1st 7lb (Lord M. Beresford), beating (by three parts of a length) Tynemouth, aged, 1st 7lb; Boanerges, 6 yrs, 1st; and five others. 5 to 2 each agst Robert de Todenci and Boanerges, 4 to 1 agst Gamut, and 5 to 1 agst Tynemouth. Four lengths between second and third.

The BROMLEY HURDLE HANDICAP of 5 sovs each, with 50 added; about 2 miles, over eight flights; was won by Count de Breteuil's b c D'Artagnan, by Bon Vivant—Lorette, 3 yrs, 1st 10lb (Edwards), beating (by three lengths) Royal Oak II., 5 yrs, 1st 2lb; Rattle, 1st 6lb; and three others. 6 to 5 agst Royal Oak II., 3 to 1 agst Silverley, 5 to 1 agst Rattle, and 7 to 1 agst D'Artagnan. Bad third.

SELLING HURDLE STAKES of 3 sovs each, with 30 added; about one mile and a half, over six hurdles; was won by Mr. J. Greenwood's b c King Sweep, by King Victor—Lady Montague, 3 yrs, 1st 14lb (J. Clark), beating (by a length) Miss Newton, 4 yrs, 1st 14lb; Timbrel, 3 yrs, 1st 14lb; and eleven others. 3 to 1 agst Hopbine, 5 to 1 each agst Fairlop and Timbrel, 8 to 1 agst Miss Newton, 10 to 1 each agst King Sweep, Stroller, and Boswell, and 20 to 1 agst Meg Merrilies II. A length between second and third. Sold to Mr. Winfield for 120 guineas.

The RAILWAY STEEPLECHASE of 5 sovs each, with 50 added; about 2 miles; was won by Mr. Tuckwell's ch h Lord Colney, by Cathedral—Violet, aged, 1st 10lb (R. P'Anson), beating (by half a length) Peau d'Ane, 5 yrs, 1st 10lb; Duchess of Gloucester, aged, 1st 7lb; and eight others. 9 to 4 agst Lord Colney, 9 to 2 agst Peau d'Ane, 5 to 1 each agst Revenge and Duchess of Gloucester, and 10 to 1 agst Saracen. Ten lengths between second and third.

SELLING STEEPLECHASE of 5 sovs each, with 30 added; about 2 miles; was won by Mr. A. Yates's ch c Brassey, by Trumpeter—Braxey, 4 yrs, 1st 13lb (J.30) (Mr. Barnes), beating (by a head) Dunois, aged, 1st 12lb (J.30); and another. Even on Brassey, 5 to 2 agst Decorator, and 4 to 1 agst Dunois. Sold to the Duke of Montrose for 4100 guineas.

HUNTERS' HURDLE PLATE of 50 sovs; second received 10 sovs; 2 miles, over eight hurdles; was won by Mr. G. Clement's br g Bristol, by Cathedral—Barnston's dam, 5 yrs, 1st 12lb (Mr. H. M. Rudd), beating (by a neck) Il Zingaro, 5 yrs, 1st 12lb; Cavalero, 4 yrs, 1st 5lb; and four others. 11 to 8 on Il Zingaro, 5 to 2 agst Bristol, 4 to 1 agst Cavalero, and 10 to 1 "bar three" offered. Four lengths between second and third.

WEDNESDAY.

The BICKLEY HURDLE HANDICAP of 40 sovs; about one mile and three-quarters, over seven hurdles; was won by Mr. Dean's b c King Sweep, by King Victor—Lady Montague, 3 yrs, 1st 10lb (J. Clark), beating (by half a length) Extinguisher, 3 yrs, 1st 10lb; Abel Miss, 3 yrs, 1st 2lb; and five others. 7 to 4 agst Extinguisher, 3 to 1 agst King Sweep, 4 to 1 agst Abel Miss, and 6 to 1 agst Ligurian. Six lengths between second and third.

The KENT OPEN HANICAP STEEPLECHASE of 10 sovs each, with 50 added; second saved his stake; three miles; was won by Mr. Barker's b g Number One, by Theobald, aged, 1st 12lb (T. Hartfield); beating (by a neck) Bon Bon, 4 yrs, 1st 2lb; Revenge, aged, 1st; and two others. 5 to 4 agst Gamebird; 4 to 1 agst Number One, 5 to 1 each agst Sultana and Revenge, and 6 to 1 agst Bon Bon. Four lengths between second and third. Mr. F. G. Hobson weighed for Austerlitz, and the number was hoisted, but the horse did not arrive in time to start.

An OPEN HUNTERS' STEEPLECHASE PLATE of 50 sovs; two miles and a half; was won by Mr. Yates's ch g Tynemouth by Newcastle—Semolina's dam, aged, 1st 11lb (J.100) (Mr. G. Moore), beating (by three lengths) Adieu, aged, 1st 13lb; and another. 11 to 8 on Adieu, 9 to 4 agst Tynemouth, and 4 to 1 agst Crawler.

The BECKENHAM HURDLE HANDICAP of 5 sovs each, with 50 added; one mile and a half, over six hurdles; was won by Mr. G. Foster's b h Industrious, by Blair Athol—Bury Bee, 6 yrs, 1st 7lb (J. Prince), beating (by twenty lengths) Extinguisher, 3 yrs, 1st 4lb; Maid Marian, 5 yrs, 1st 13lb; and four others. 6 to 5 on Industrious, 4 to 1 agst Maid Marian, 100 to 15 each agst Debonnaire and Extinguisher, and 8 to 1 agst Vittoria.

A SELLING HURDLE HANDICAP of 40 sovs; about one mile and a half, over six hurdles; was won by Mr. R. Shepherd's b c Swift by Joey Jones—Cletia, 4 yrs, 1st 2lb (Owner), beating (by twenty lengths) Enido, 3 yrs, 1st 10lb; Timbrel, 3 yrs, 1st 5lb; and nine others. 4 to 1 agst Bickerstaffe, 5 to 1 each agst Timbrel and Bay Malcolm, 6 to 1 agst Swift, and 10 to 1 agst others (offered). The winner was sold to Mr. F. G. Hobson for 1600s, and Mr. Siddell purchased Hope for 260s.

A STEEPLECHASE PLATE of 100 sovs; the second received 20 sovs; two miles; was won by Mr. W. Morris's ch h Rattle by Ratalplan—Mari-geld, aged, 1st 5lb (Mr. A. Yates); beating (by four lengths) Lord Colney, aged, 1st 13lb (inc 10lb ex); Foxhound, 6 yrs, 1st 13lb, and four others. 5 to 2 agst Foxhound, 100 to 30 each agst Vintner and Lord Colney, 5 to 1 agst Rattle, and 8 to 1 agst Stella.

A HUNTERS' FLAT RACE of 3 sovs each, with 50 added; the second received 10 sovs. Two miles, on the flat, was won by Mr. E. Ewren's b c Cavaliero by Cambuscan—Idalia, 4 yrs, 1st 7lb (Hon. E. Willoughby); beating (by four lengths) Bristol, 5 yrs, 1st; Sheet Anchor, 6 yrs, 1st 8lb; and four others. 11 to 8 on Bristol, 5 to 2 agst Cavaliero, and 100 to 30 agst Sheet Anchor.

KINGSBURY DECEMBER MEETING.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13.

The TALLY-HO FLAT RACE of 3 sovs each, with 50 added; about two miles; was won by Mr. T. Stevens's b g Tutor, by Lecturer—Premature, 5 yrs, 1st 7lb (Mr. Friend); beating (by half a length) Cavaliero, 4 yrs, 1st; Anacreon, aged, 1st 10lb; and five others. 7 to 4 on Tutor, 3 to 1 agst Cavaliero, and 10 to 1 agst others.

The GRAND HURDLE RACE of 100 sovs, added to 10 sovs each; second received 20 sovs; about two miles, over eight hurdles. Mr. Goodchild's br m Ignition, by Flash in the Pan—Miss Jephson, 5 yrs, 1st 5lb.

Mr. W. Burton's ch g Royal Oak II., 5 yrs, 1st.....Whiteley 1  
Mr. Fitzroy's b g Birbeck, 6 yrs, 1st 10lb.....Levit 2  
Mr. Also ran: Industrious, 6 yrs, 1st 6lb (inc 7lb extra); Percy, 4 yrs, 1st 4lb; Rufina, aged, 1st 13lb; Bric-a-Brac, 4 yrs, 1st 2lb; Napolitain, aged, 1st 6 to 4 agst Industrious, 4 to 1 agst Royal Oak II., 11 to 2 agst Rufina, 6 to 1 agst Birbeck, 7 to 1 agst Ignition, and 20 to 1 (at first 5 to 2) agst Percy. Won by three lengths; bad third.

A SELLING HURDLE RACE of 3 sovs each, with 40 added; about one mile and a half; was won by Mr. W. Burton's ch h Merodach, by New-castle—Semolina's dam, aged, 1st 4lb (J. Clarke), beating (by a head) Miss Newton, 3 yrs, 1st 14lb; Belinda, 4 yrs, 1st 7lb (J.40); and seven others. 2 to 1 agst Merodach, 5 to 2 agst Swift, 5 to 1 each agst Miss Newton and Belinda, and 8 to 1 agst Abel Miss. Three lengths between second and third. Sold to Mr. F. G. Hobson for 127s.

The NEASON STEEPLECHASE PLATE of 80 sovs; about two miles; was won by Mr. W. Wilson's br m Gipsy, by Knight of Kars—Debonnaire, 6 yrs, 1st 12lb (Mr. E. P. Wilson), beating (by ten lengths) Clodhopper, 6 yrs, 1st 11lb; Lothair, aged, 1st 13lb; and two others. 5 to 4 on Gipsy, 2 to 1 agst Lothair, 10 to 1 each agst Ludonais and Clodhopper, and 20 to 1 (at first 2 to 1) agst Melitta.

A SELLING STEEPLECHASE PLATE of 10 sovs; about two miles, was won by Mr. A. Poole's br m Minnie (late Eltham Lass), 6 yrs, 1st 13lb (Hales), beating (by a length and a half) Longford, aged, 1st 13lb; Peter Simple, aged, 1st 7lb (J.50); and six others. 2 to 1 on Peter Simple, 6 to 1 agst Neptune, and 10 to 1 each agst Minnie, Longford, and Stroller. Two lengths between second and third. Sold to Mr. Yates for 145s.

The FIRST MAIDEN HURDLE RACE PLATE of 100 sovs; about one mile and a half, over six hurdles, Mr. J. Jessop's b g Boyne Water, by Solon—Lyr, 5 yrs, 1st 4lb

Mr. W. Wilson's b m Gipsy, 6 yrs, 1st 4lb .....Mr. E. P. Wilson 2  
Mr. T. Horne's ch m Duchess of Gloucester, aged, 1st 4lb

Also ran: Recruit, 4 yrs, 1st 5lb; Chieftain, 6 yrs, 1st 7lb; Father Matthew, 3 yrs, 1st 7lb; Florry York, 3 yrs, 1st; King Death, 4 yrs, 1st 3lb; Peterboro', 3 yrs, 1st 7lb; Madcap, 4 yrs, 1st 3lb; Monarch, 5 yrs, 1st 7lb; Maggie, 3 yrs, 1st; Generosity, 4 yrs, 1st 10lb. 7 to 4 on Boyne Water, 10 to 1 each agst Father Matthew and Gipsy, 100 to 8 agst King Death, 100 to 7 agst Chieftain, and 20 to 1 agst any other. Won in a canter by eight lengths; a head between second and third.

FRIDAY.

The SECOND MAIDEN HURDLE RACE of 60 sovs, added to 3 sovs each; about one mile and a half, over six flights; was won by Mr. H. Hobson's Florry York, by Cardinal York—Lady Flora, 3 yrs, 1st 12lb (Levit), beating (by four lengths) Annette II., 3 yrs, 1st 12lb; Cornucopia, 4 yrs, 1st 13lb (J.80); and another. Even on Florry York, 2 to 1 agst Annette II., 6 to 1 agst others. Sold to Mr. Oppenheimer for 31s.

A SELLING HUNTERS' FLAT RACE of 10 sovs; two miles; was won by Lord M. Heresford's Anacreon, by Vermont—Anecdote, aged, 1st 5lb (J.40) (Mr. A. Yates) beating (by six lengths) Miss Doubtful, aged, 1st 5lb (J.40); Patch, aged, 1st 7lb (J.40); and four others. 2 to 1 on Anacreon, 7 to 1 each agst Patch and Miss Doubtful, and 10 to 1 agst others. Sold to Mr. Bracher for 115 guineas.

The UNION HUNT HURDLE RACE PLATE of 40 sovs; a mile and a half, over six hurdles; was won by Mr. S. Western's York, by Vol-

tigeur—English Rose, 4 yrs, 1st (Mr. E. P. Wilson), beating (by two lengths) Bristol, 5 yrs, 1st; Mrs. Sam, 5 yrs, 1st; and seven others. 6 to 5 agst Bristol, 3 to 1 agst York, 4 to 1 agst Tweed, 5 to 1 agst Mrs. Sam, and 10 to 1 agst others.

The GREAT MIDLAND HURDLE HANDICAP of 5 sovs each, with 100 added; about one mile and a half, over six hurdles. Mr. Fitzroy's Birbeck, by Trumpeter—Hepatica, 6 yrs, 1st 10lb

J. Jones 1  
Mr. E. Woodland's Napolitain, aged, 1st .....Didman 1  
Mr. Newman's Elliot, 4 yrs, 1st .....H. Davis 2  
Also ran: Moortown, aged, 1st 4lb; Brown Holland, 6 yrs, 1st 11lb; Tancred, 5 yrs, 1st 6lb. 7 to 4 agst Birbeck, 2 to 1 agst Brown Holland, 5 to 1 each agst Moortown and Elliot, and 10 to 1 each agst the others. Won in a canter by four lengths; a length and a half between second and third.

SELLING HURDLE STAKES of 3 sovs each, with 40 added; about one mile and a half, over six hurdles; was won by Mr. F. G. Hobson's Merodach, by Newcastle—Semolina's dam, by Faugh-a-Ballagh, aged, 1st 4lb (J.25) (R. P'Anson), beating (by four lengths) Abel Miss, 3 yrs, 1st 4lb (J.25); Bay Malcolm, 4 yrs, 1st 6lb (J.25); and 10 others. 6 to 4 on Merodach, 4 to 1 agst Abel Miss, 10 to 1 agst Letcombe, and 20 to 1 agst others. The winner was bought in for 160 guineas, and Bay Malcolm was sold to Mr. J. Johnston for 40.

The SUDBURY STEEPLECHASE of 10 sovs each, with 100 added; winners extra; about three miles.

Mr. J. Gartlan's Rock Savage, by Fright—X. L., by Polish, aged, 1st 10lb .....Mr. St. James 1  
Mr. J. Johnson's Rufina, aged, 1st .....Maxwell 2  
Captain G. Stirling's Miss Monaghan, aged, 1st 9lb .....W. Reeve 3  
Also ran: Alstone, 6 yrs, 1st 13lb; Lancet, aged, 1st 13lb; Joyeuse, 6 yrs, 1st 5lb; Saracen, aged, 1st 4lb. Even on Rock Savage, 3 to 1 agst Alstone, 4 to 1 agst Rufina, 6 to 1 agst Lancet, and 10 to 1 agst others. Won by two lengths; the same between second and third.

Mr. PREDIE's address is  
2, Place Frédéric Sauvage,  
Boulogne-sur-Mer.—Advrt.

"RUFF'S GUIDE."—This standard book of reference to racing men and breeders of blood stock, has undergone distinct improvement since it passed into the hands of the present proprietors. It remains, as in the days of its earlier history, the one authority upon which implicit reliance may be placed by those whose business or pleasure brings them into connection with the turf, and having been greatly strengthened to meet the increased requirements of the time by the addition of a number of pages of new matter, it ought to make the successful rivalry of other "guides" well nigh impossible. The compilation and arrangement of this the winter edition of Ruff reflect credit on the editors. The work is published at the office of our contemporary, *The Sportsman*.

HUNTING NOTES.

By A HUNTING MAN.

THE Queen's Hounds are having very good sport indeed. The run last Tuesday being a very fine hunting run, over a splendid country. They met at Kenton Lane, near Harrow. The noble Master was out, and the Prince Imperial. After partaking of refreshment at Mr. Brown's farm, the deer, "Deception," was uncared, and went away over a fine grass country to Elstree, on to Barnet, Potter's Bar, to Small Farm, Colney Heath, near St. Albans, where he was taken, after three hours. The first half of the run was all grass, and the country being deep many came to grief. The Prince had a fall, but rode well in front, and saw the finish, as did Lord Hardwicke. Lord Charles Ker, Captain and Lady Julia Follett, and many others, went well; but only thirteen saw the finish. The hounds being so far from home they were taken to Hatfield Park, the seat of the Marquis of Salisbury, and remained there all night, Goodhall returning home by rail. This was really one of the good, old-fashioned runs, and reminded me of the days of Charles Davis. Some years ago there was a deer called "Woodman," that always ran over the Harrow country. I have seen him taken at Willesden and Harlesden Green many times. The last day he was hunted it was from Pole Hill, and the hounds getting away from the whips through a wire fence, at the finish of the run, not far from Hampstead, he was unfortunately killed. The word "wire" makes my blood run cold, many bad falls have I seen through these man-traps. I saw a horse killed with the O. B. H., and the rider seriously injured. It is positively sinful the way some men will run a wire "through" the fence: better by far, "if a man is base enough to wire his fences" to put it over the top, then a man might "see it," but it is simply cruel to put a wire to a fence at all. The Windsor draghounds met on Saturday last at Mr. Albert Ricardo's, at Bray Mead. There were a large number of ladies present, and many of the officers from Windsor. At a quarter before 3 o'clock the hounds were laid on at the Clappers, and going over the brook they crossed the road, over some good fences, to Jackson's Meadows, where the fun began. There were numerous brooks, both deep and wide, together with two or three good stiff posts and rails, before they had their check; only seven got there out of thirty or forty that started, and of these, two were ladies, who led all through, viz., the Hon. Mrs. Herbert, and Mrs. Richardson. It is, indeed, a rare treat to see these ladies ride, for they go as straight as a crow, and no fences are too big for them—one thing, they are magnificently mounted. After five minutes, the hounds were laid on again, and ran a good line over Whitbrook Common, and thence along the river to the back of Raymead, where they finished. The two first in, were Mrs. Herbert, and Mr. Greenfell closely followed by Mrs. Richardson, Lord Ker, Mr. Ricardo. Colonel Garratt hunts them like a thorough workman, and it takes a good man and horse to keep with them, and no mistake. It is a pity when they make a line "too hot," for sometimes with some draghounds, it is almost too much to get over. The "warmest" lot I think, are those that run over the Hythe and Folkestone country. One of the best meets is Sellindge, and Mr. Charley Huss always gives them a rattling line, and being a thorough good sportsman himself, he generally walks the line over himself, to see that there are "no traps" in the way. For I remember once riding to a drag, and they ran over a bog, for a lark. I did not see much fun in it. The man was sorry afterwards, but it is no joke getting half smothered in black mud for no thing. Sir Robert Harvey's Harriers met on Tuesday last, at Ascot. They had a very good day, and found plenty of hares. They did not go out on Friday on account of the heavy rain—for at times harriers do certainly some small amount of damage, for they often go over again the same ground. Sir Robert had a capital good season last year. They had several wonderful days with a deer. When harriers get used to the scent of a stag how merrily they will run to it. There must be something very sweet in the scent of a deer; it seems strange that the scent will at times suddenly go off. I have winded a fox, and strange to say, hounds have not even "opened" to him: that is because the scent rises. You won't wind him much yourself when hounds are running him. Scent is the most incomprehensible thing in the world. You may argue it how you will: no one has been able to account for it; days, sometimes, when you might think hounds would run like mad, there is none, and, *vice versa*, I have seen hounds run away from a field while it has been snowing hard. A run with the Fitzwilliam Hounds that I had, I shall never forget. We met at Rythorn Tolbar, ran hard over that fine country, by Rants Meadows, Hunts Closes, by Kimbolton, into the Cambridgeshire country, horses all beaten, and hounds running, while it was snowing fast. By the by, what fine sport they have with the Fitzwilliam Hounds. There are some strong covers for foxes, particularly Barnwell Wood. I hunted one season from Huntingdon, and what with the Fitzwilliam, the Oakley, and the Cambridgeshire, you may hunt every day. As for a blank day, I should think such a thing to be almost unknown. A capital meet is Leighton village. Nothing is more pretty than to see a large field and the fox break away from Leighton Gorse. It is a capital place for people in carriages to see from, as the Gorse runs up to the road, and often those driving may see a lot of the run. The great nuisance to hunting is the foot people, who will sometimes run into the cover, but it only shows the natural love of all classes for the national sport.

A large meet was a natural consequence of the next fixture, in the attractive Harrow country. Mr. Gurney, of Northolt, gave the "turn out," but before doing so he entertained his friends. The deer "Prince" was uncared, ran pointing for Ickenham, and back round Harrow, then to Eastcott, Pinner, and on to Ruislip, where they ran up to him, and he was taken—it was a very pretty run, all over grass and plenty of fencing. The Friday following, the meet was at Bracknell, a fine day and good field met there, ran towards "the Srag and Hounds" to Warfield, on to Ridstone Farm, to Holyport, and was taken at Bray after a very satisfactory run. The fencing, all banks and ditches and plough-land, the very reverse to the grass and flying fences of the Harrow country. The Household Brigade's Draghounds met on the day following at Colonel Follett's, Woodside, Old Windsor, to breakfast. The line was over the old Windsor Road, crossing Mr. Allen's Farm to old Ham Bridge, when they checked, and finished a half circle at Ham Bridge, Col. Garrat (the master), Hon. E. Carrington, Cap. and Lady Follett, Mrs. Richardson, Cap. Dansey, Lord Parker, Mrs. Grenfell and son, Mrs. Her-ert went through the run. The next meet was Ford's Hotel Slough, when the above named and many others met. The line was a stiff one, started at Aldin House, by Ditton Park to Langley Bridge, here they had a check, then went sailing away over the large brook, and finished in Mr. Hardine's meadow; the going was very heavy, being nearly all over deep ploughed land; it is a very good plan to lift the drag and make a check, just to give the horses breathing time. It saves many a fall, for the horses get so blown sometimes that they can hardly finish. It is so with some drags, but the Windsor Drag, by having a check, can be thoroughly enjoyed, and horses not so much distressed. I remember a "hot" drag over the Maiden country in Surrey, some years ago. Only four saw it; the big drain stopping the whole field. But such severe drags are not now the order of the day. And a check gives it more the appearance of a hunting run.

The Birmingham Post reports that, while Mr. R. H. Briscoe, ex-sheriff for Staffordshire, was recently out in the neighbourhood of Somerset for the Albrighton hounds, his left leg got crushed between the saddle and a gate-post. Mr. Briscoe was removed to his home, where he is progressing favourably.